

Pentagon sees \$11b Gulf cost

WASHINGTON (R) — The growing U.S. military build-up in the Gulf could cost at least \$11 billion in the next 12 months, defence officials said Friday. The U.S. defence officials, who asked not to be identified, said key members of Congress had been advised of the additional cost of the military operation even as Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady were travelling abroad on missions designed to persuade other nations to help pay the bill. After talks between Baker and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd on Thursday night, U.S. and Saudi officials said the kingdom had agreed to a multi-billion dollar package that would cover the major part of in-country costs for the U.S. forces deployed to deter any invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq. The Pentagon officials said the \$11 billion would be in addition to \$2.5 billion that the U.S. military will spend by the end of this month to send over 100,000 troops and seamen and millions of tons of equipment to the Gulf region. "That cost in fiscal 1991 (beginning Oct. 1) would be in addition to normal pay for the troops and does not include what would be the additional cost of any actual fighting," said one of the defence officials.

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IOM issues urgent appeal

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said Sunday that the ability of the world community to cope with the exodus from Iraq and Kuwait "is at a breaking point." In an urgent and specific request addressed to the heads of states of 24 countries, the director general of IOM asked that the governments donate aircraft — commercial and military — and ships "now" before human suffering becomes a human tragedy. This call comes even as the first phase of IOM's repatriation programme becomes operational with a schedule of 72 flights leaving Amman with some 19,000 people aboard in the next fortnight. Relief organisations are working with a figure of 100,000 people that have already moved to Jordan. This is the tip of the iceberg; short-term projections say an estimated half a million people could move. Neither aircraft space nor present financial resources available to the relief organisations, therefore, could even hope to cope with the needs resulting from this ever-increasing rates of arrivals. As the exodus outstrips the resources by leaps and bounds, time, said IOM, is the essence.

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Qasem: Jordan fully observes sanctions

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan is fully observing the terms of the international sanctions imposed on Iraq and those who doubt the Kingdom's sincerity in applying them should explain clauses which exempt food and medicine, in humanitarian circumstances, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Friday.

"We would like to have a consistent decision, not a seasonal, erratic and at times inhuman one to suit someone's ego or goal," Qasem was quoted as saying in an interview with Reuters.

"We have stopped everything that we were (supposed) to observe," Qasem said, but added that Jordan would continue to import vital oil from Iraq until alternatives could be found.

He said Jordan needed Iraqi oil for its own use, not for export, and was ready to accept from any country alternative supplies at the concessional prices it was paying Baghdad.

Qasem accused some unnamed countries of delaying a decision by a U.N. Security Council Committee on defining the scope of sanctions and assistance to Jordan to offset the economic pain of complying with them.

"As far as we are concerned a resolution from the Security Council is binding and whether it has loopholes or not we will observe it fully as we have observed fully (Security Council Resolution) 242," he said.

Jordan has long advocated implementation of Resolution 242, which demands an Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in the 1967 war in return for peace and secure borders for all states in the region.

The Security Council reported agreement Thursday near Jordan's request for emergency aid to cover economic losses arising from compliance with the embargo, and for the cost of sheltering 100,000 Gulf refugees.

"We are very close to an agreement" on Jordan's request, said the chairman of the U.N. sanctions committee, Finnish Ambassador Marjatta Rasi, speaking to reporters.

Reuters said Qasem declined comment on His Majesty King Hussein's meeting on Thursday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Prime Minister Mubarak Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, Political Advisor Adnan Abn Odeh and Qasem accompanied the King on the visit.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told the American ABC television network in an interview Thursday that the King's talks with the Iraqi leader were aimed at not forcing diplomatic solutions to the Gulf crisis in view of the sweeping resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

Qasem said Jordan was fully committed to the U.N. embargo against Iraq and dismissed as "rubbish" the idea that Amman would give the Iraqis access to its weapons.

Responding to a report that the French government had frozen arms sales to Jordan for fear advanced weapons might find their way to Iraq, Qasem described the idea as rubbish.

The French firm Dassault said Thursday the government had ordered it not to deliver 12 Mirage jets worth \$1 billion to Jordan.

Qasem told Reuters that Jordan had never passed on weapons or military technology even to its best friends in the Middle East and would never do so.

"If there are things which are heading for Jordan they will be exclusively used by Jordan," he said.

"Our policy is to honour our obligations. This has been proven to others in the past by Americans, French, British or even Soviets because we do have different assortment (of weapons) but in way do we let anyone use those," he said.

He said talk of a joint Jordanian-Iraqi air squadron was an Israeli-inspired distortion to put pressure on Jordan.

"They want to make this accusation stick and it has no grounds at all for it. For those who are seeking a de-escalation this is not the way to help."

Qasem said Jordanian pilots were training in Iraq because Jordan could not bear the cost of training them at home.

"The only (military) relationship that we have is that due to the high (Continued on page 5)



A mother cries as her children anxiously wait for food and water at one of the camps near Al Ruweished (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

U.N. calls for aircraft, funds to speed up flow of evacuees

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — Relief agencies appealed Friday for planes and money to airlift home tens of thousands of Asian refugees stranded in the Jordanian desert after arriving from Kuwait and Iraq.

The number of U.N.-coordinated flights from Amman needed to be at least doubled from the current planned 72 over the next two weeks to help repatriate the increasingly desperate refugees, the officials said.

"We are urgently appealing for more planes or more funds to charter aircraft," said Sergio Piazzi, a coordinator in Jordan for the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRP).

"India and Egypt are now asking us to help repatriate their nationals because there is a new influx into Jordan. What planes they had organised themselves are being overwhelmed," he told Reuters.

An estimated 277,000 Indians and Egyptians are the largest Asian and Arab foreign communities remaining in Kuwait.

Thousands of Egyptians, Indians, Bangladeshis and Filipinos fill halls and car parks at the Queen Alia Airport 24 hours a day, police frequently have to stop them rushing departure gates.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has pledged readiness to provide Jordan with all possible assistance within its mandate to help it cope with the situation.

The pledge was made by UNDP Administrator William Draper at meetings he held with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Minister of Planning Khalid Amin Abdullah.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced that it had started the second phase of its emergency assistance programme to Jordan. In the first phase carried out late last month, UNICEF airlifted 13 tonnes of drugs, blankets and tents into Jordan and supplied mattresses, water tanks and jerry cans from local sources for the evacuees' camps.

Crown Prince Hassan said on Thursday that 10,000 newcomers were arriving daily from Iraq and called on international agencies to speed up moving them home.

He accused the West of ignoring the Asians' plight because its attention was focused on Westerners held in Kuwait and Iraq.

The Prince said the flood of refugees and neglect by the West had led to a disaster in Jordan. Up to two million more foreigners might head for the Kingdom from Iraq and Kuwait.

"We need to move 100,000 in three weeks but don't have the money or aircraft," said Regina Boucault, spokeswoman for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), a U.N. agency.

"If 30 Western countries provided five or six aircraft each we could do it," she said. "But so far we have only moved 2,500 to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka since our airlift began on Monday."

She said a giant Soviet Antonov transport plane left for Baghdad Friday with 400 passengers — 50 less than normal because previous flights had shown the planes were overcrowded.

European Community (EC) ministers met Friday in Rome to approve aid for Jordan, Turkey and Egypt (Continued on page 5)

Saudis, Kuwaitis to foot U.S. bill

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The United States and Saudi Arabia said Friday there could be no compromise with Iraq over the Middle East as secretary of state...

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Baker said Saudi Arabia "is going to be doing perhaps even more than their share toward sharing that responsibility (and this is) very much appreciated by the United States."

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Europarlamentarians say Gulf peace through sanctions

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis is an almost certain outcome if economic sanctions against Baghdad are tightly observed, members of a high-ranking delegation of European parliamentarians said Friday on the fourth leg of a five-country fact-finding tour of the region.

"It is certain that if the embargo is properly and seriously applied it will bring about a peaceful solution. I see no need at present to envision any different scenario from that," said European Parliament Vice-President Roberto Formigoni, who heads the five-member delegation.

A comprehensive solution based on United Nations conditions that Iraq should pull out of Kuwait and the former government be reinstated, coupled with issues of aid to evacuees and economic assistance to those countries that are bound to be effected by the economic sanctions on Iraq, are all priority issues as far as the European Community (EC) is concerned, Formigoni said.

The EC Council of Ministers met Friday and announced an aid package of \$2 billion for Turkey, Egypt and Jordan to compensate for their loss as a result of the international economic embargo.

Indicating that at least some forces in the European Parliament believe Jordan should be granted economic support, Peter Crompton, a British member of the European parliament, said, "We and certain other Arab states ought to understand if we expect Jordan to survive and play a role we have to provide aid, there is no use saying sanctions, sanctions etc."

The five-member parliamentary group said that its mandate was very broad and that it was interested in "contacts at all possible levels to bring about a solution of the crisis." In its mission to find a peaceful solution to the crisis it did not visit Iraq saying the members

felt it may weaken their position in the eyes of Saddam Hussein. "We do not want him to underestimate our determination," in carrying out U.N. demands and economic sanctions, said British Conservative parliamentarian James Moorhouse.

Reiterating the European parliament's official position, Formigoni said: "In general terms we support the solution recommended by the U.N. ... there has been an illegal invasion of a sovereign country we are seeking a withdrawal of that country's forces. We are seeking the freedom of foreigners in both Iraq and Kuwait and we support the U.N. embargo as means of bringing about a solution to the problem."

While British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has indicated that Jordan would receive no economic aid if economic sanctions against Iraq were not strictly adhered to, Formigoni said: "The international community should

(Continued on page 5)

EC to give \$2b to Turkey, Jordan and Egypt

ROME (AP) — The European Community nations Friday agreed to give \$2 billion in economic aid to Turkey, Jordan and Egypt to compensate them for lost trade with Iraq.

They also granted more food and other emergency aid for the tens of thousands of refugees from Iraq and Kuwait stranded at Iraq's borders.

However, the EC states made no promises to contribute to the cost of deploying U.S. troops in the Gulf, sent in after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

After a one-day meeting of the EC foreign ministers, the Italian minister, Gianni De Michelis, told reporters, "We want to contribute to the burden-sharing in an independent and direct manner and not to the expenses of a

League split deepens

TUNIS (R) — Morocco has abandoned efforts to heal a split in the Arab League over the Gulf crisis which has pitched pro and anti-Iraqi Arab states against each other, diplomatic sources said Friday.

Cairo and Tunis have scheduled rival ministers' meeting this month and Rabat, alarmed by the chasm dividing the Arab World, had asked the league to postpone both.

The diplomatic sources in Tunis said Morocco withdrew its request Thursday night. Enough ministers had agreed to attend the Cairo talks for that meeting to go ahead on Sept. 10, despite the declared opposition of Tunisia, Algeria and Yemen. Iraq, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were among members who did not attend last week's Arab League foreign ministers' meeting and were widely expected to do the same again.

The Cairo meeting, strongly backed by the six Gulf states, plans to authorise the transfer of the league headquarters from Tunis to Cairo. This had originally been backed by most league members and a group, ironically

headed by Iraq, was working on the timing and logistics. Iraq now opposes the transfer which would undermine Egypt's dominant role in the league mainstream, assumed only months after Cairo was readmitted to the group after a decade-long exile because of its separate peace treaty with Israel.

League Secretary-General Chadi Kibi, a Tunisian, resigned earlier this week in the aftermath of the split which was underscored when only 13 of the League's 21 members attended last week's Cairo meeting. It reiterated demands for Baghdad to order its troops out of Kuwait and pay war damages.

Diplomatic sources said it was now impossible to gauge whether an ordinary league meeting of ministers, scheduled for Sept. 17 in Tunis, would go ahead.

The sources pointed out that the division of the league could cripple its future operations. Under its charter a new secretary-general needs the votes of two-thirds of the members.

Cairo has the apparent solid backing of 11, needing two more voices to join it to elect a new league chief.

Gorbachev may use summit to push for Mideast conference

(Combined agency dispatches)

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could use his Gulf crisis summit with President George Bush this weekend to push for renewed efforts for an Arab-Israeli peace, informed sources said Friday.

With the world's attention focused on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Moscow this week repeated its long-standing call for an international conference on the Middle East and a comprehensive settlement under the aegis of the United Nations.

Official spokesman Gennady Gerasimov stressed Thursday that Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who made the appeal in a speech in Vladivostok, was not directly linking the Gulf conflict and the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"The first priority is to restore the sovereignty of Kuwait," Gerasimov said. "Shevardnadze's proposal for a Middle East conference was the same as before. We think it is just as important now as it ever was."

But the renewed emphasis on peace talks, coupled with Gorbachev's advocacy of using the "Arab factor" to solve the Gulf crisis, suggests Moscow believes that Arab solidarity against Iraq could be bolstered by moves towards a Middle East settlement, analysts said.

"I think it's safe to assume that one of the things Gorbachev will emphasize to Bush is that it is very important for us to maximise Arab solidarity on the Gulf question and show them that we are not overlooking other issues, including the Arab-Israeli dispute," one Western diplomat said.

"I am sure Gorbachev will agree there must be no direct linkage. But I think he sees it as important to prevent (Iraqi President Saddam) Hussein's attempt to appeal to Palestinians and the poorer Arabs against various great states."

Bush and Gorbachev met Sunday in Helsinki for their one-day summit.

A commentary in the daily newspaper Izvestia Thursday directly linked the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2 and the Palestinians problem, saying Iraqi actions, while deplorable, were a symptom of wider Middle Eastern instability.

"Had the Middle East not been in such a deep crisis for many decades, maybe the Iraqi aggression would not have happened, and certainly Arab support for it would have been unthinkable," the commentary by Andrei Ostalsky said.

Gerasimov said Friday the Soviet Union would be willing to provide troops for a U.N. peacekeeping force in the Gulf if they were under a joint command that included Soviet generals.

A joint U.S.-Soviet military force under a United Nations banner would be a first for the superpowers, who have been on (Continued on page 5)

House of Commons backs Thatcher

(Combined agency dispatches)

LONDON (R) — Britain's parliament strongly backed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's dispatch of forces to the Gulf and her refusal to rule out military action against Iraq.

At the end of a two-day emergency debate the House of Commons supported government policy Friday by a vote of 437-35, far higher than the 100-seat majority Thatcher's ruling Conservatives normally command in the 650-member chamber.

The only issue of dispute in the debate was over whether Britain should seek United Nations approval before taking any military action to force Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Thatcher and other officials said no such authority was needed.

Britain was the first country to commit forces to back the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf following Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

A group of left-wing opposition politicians, led by former Labour Minister Tony Benn, had said they would vote against the government as "a vote for peace rather than war."

Opening the debate Thursday, Thatcher said she was considering sending further forces to the Gulf. She added that she hoped sanctions would lead to Iraq's withdrawal but refused to rule out the use of force.

Britain has sent three squadrons of fighter-bomber aircraft, a (Continued on page 5)

171 Americans arrive in Amman from Iraq

AMMAN (Agencies) — A plane load of 171 Americans arrived here from Baghdad Friday, as the evacuation of Western women and children continued through Jordan.

Most passengers were women and children, but some Arab-American husbands and a few other men were also aboard. Mothers pushed baby carriages and tugged startled children through a crush of cameras.

They arrived on an Iraqi Airways plane, the first U.S.-arranged charter to airlift Americans from Kuwait.

A handful of Americans in Kuwait were flown on a regular Iraqi Airways flight from Baghdad last week. That trip was arranged by U.S. civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

But most of the other foreign evacuees have had to cross the desert under baking sun to Baghdad to catch flights out.

The charter stopped over in Baghdad where its passengers obtained exit permits from Iraqi authorities before taking off for Amman.

On arrival, the Americans were whisked to the airport hotel to wait for a flight home. They were believed headed for Virginia.

The State Department in Washington has reported the shooting of an American in Kuwait who was trying to avoid capture.

The evacuees were taken to nearby airport hotel, where they were briefed by U.S. Ambassador Roger Harrison and waited for papers to be processed before heading to the United States.

Harrison told Journalists waiting outside the hotel the Americans were "tired but in good spirits." He said they felt relieved and he expected more American women and children to fly out of Iraq next week.

India calls for urgent relief effort in Gulf

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — India, angry at being refused permission by the United Nations to send food to its people trapped in the Gulf, called Friday for an urgent international relief effort.

Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral also confirmed publicly for the first time that Iraq refused to let India send ships and aircraft evacuate over 100,000 people until it sent food.

He told parliament food shortages in Kuwait were serious and what was required was "a concerted international effort, without further delay, for solving the humanitarian problem."

Gujral said he had asked Western nations enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq for safe passage for a ship to take food to Kuwait.

"It was a matter of deep concern, therefore, when we were categorically told not to proceed with the shipment," he said.

The countries, which he did not identify, told India the ship would be stopped.

Diplomats said the United States and other Western countries had told India food problems in Kuwait and Iraq had not reached the stage when they could be considered a humanitarian issue.

Gujral's spokesman was even blunter.

Some, he said "believe that because there are no deaths by starvation yet perhaps we could wait awhile."

He added: "Our view is quite different. We want to avoid a

single death by starvation."

Gujral accused Baghdad of reneging on assurances of cooperation in evacuating the 182,000 Indians trapped when Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

Baghdad had told Delhi a start to evacuation from Iraq and Kuwait "will not be permitted until the aircraft or ships deployed for repatriation brought food," he said.

Hiring Iraqi planes was subject to the same condition, he added. So far about 20,000 Indians have reached home, the great majority after an arduous trek from Kuwait to Jordan, about 16,000 more were in squalid camps on the Iraq-Jordan border and 5,000 in Amman.

Gujral said Iraq had told India and other Asian nations with sizeable populations in the Gulf it would not be able to supply food for foreigners.

"The availability of rations (in Kuwait) has seriously decreased," he said.

"The Iraqi authorities have informed us... they will not be able to make arrangements for rations... that this will have to be done through imports."

India had appealed to the United Nations Thursday to be allowed to take in the supplies on humanitarian grounds for the Indians still trapped in Kuwait.

Sources said the United States apparently stuck to its position of "nothing in, nothing out," and the Security Council refused the request, apparently because India

could not guarantee that the supplies would not fall into Iraqi hands.

India has had to revise its evacuation plans a number of times as pressure mounted from Indian refugees stranded in Jordan.

An earlier plan was to take the Indians to the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini in the northern Gulf and then take them back to India on two passenger ships, the Tipu Sultan and the Akbar. That plan did not go ahead because of apparent bureaucratic hurdles.

The plan now being scrapped was to transport stranded Indians directly from Kuwait aboard the Tipu Sultan and the Akbar, both Indian-registered with a combined passenger capacity of 2,500.

Meanwhile, some 750 Indian refugees, the first to be evacuated by sea from Kuwait, were to be flown home from Dubai by chartered Air India planes.

They were brought out aboard a Panamanian-registered cargo vessel, the Safer, which had been docked in Kuwait at the time of the invasion.

The 9,300-tonne Safer docked off Dubai Thursday after a 30-hour trip, with its passengers reported in good health, but suffering from dehydration.

Doctors, water and food were taken out to them for the overnight stay off Dubai while their flight papers were readied.

The Safer passengers included 300 women and children.



Asian evacuees crowd around a water tank in a transit camp near the Al Ruwished border post (photo by Youssef Al Allan)

U.S. Gulf build-up over 100,000 and growing

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has already sent more than 100,000 troops and seamen to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region and will continue its military build-up around Iraq, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said Thursday.

"The worst sin of all would be for us to deploy forces out there sufficient to get into trouble but not strong enough to deal with any eventuality that may arise," he told the International Institute of Strategic Studies in Hot Springs, Virginia.

Cheney did not give a total number, but said the U.S. deployment included over 100,000 in Saudi Arabia, in nearby countries and on U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf.

Other defense officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters Thursday that nearly 100,000 U.S. marines, army troops and air force personnel were now in Saudi Arabia. That did not include about 35,000 sailors and airmen on some 40 warships in the Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman and Eastern Mediterranean.

The U.S. military net around Iraq also includes more than 500 air force and navy fighter jets and bombers.

Defense officials said last week that the United States, on orders

from President George Bush, would have 150,000 troops on the ground in Saudi Arabia by mid-October.

While Cheney's figure appeared to be conservative, it was the first public disclosure by a senior official of the size of the highest U.S. military build-up since the Vietnam war.

"In about a month now we have deployed more than 100,000 U.S. military personnel and their equipment to Saudi Arabia, the surrounding area, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea," he said in a speech.

"Now, of course, we are beginning to move in, in a fairly substantial way, the heavy ground forces we think are required to complete the deployment to carry out our mission to protect Saudi Arabia and U.S. interests, he added.

Asked if it was time to halt the build-up Cheney replied: "While each day that goes by we become more comfortable and confident of our capability to deal with any eventuality... I would argue that it is too soon as yet to do that."

He said it would be up to military experts such as General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and commanders on the scene to decide when the build-up was big enough.

Iraq to jail foreigners who violate residence laws

NICOSIA (R) — Foreigners who keep their addresses secret or try to leave Iraq or Kuwait without an exit visa will be jailed, Iraq's justice minister said.

Many Western men trapped in Kuwait are hiding and frequently changing their living places to avoid being rounded up by Iraqi troops and detained.

Quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) Justice Minister Akram Abdul Qader said he was ordering all courts to implement strictly foreigners' residence law.

Under this law, foreigners who leave Iraq without informing the authorities can be jailed for life. Those who keep their residence secret can be sentenced to up to three years in prison.

The minister's statement Thursday said foreigners must state their place of residence in Iraq when applying for a visa and must not leave without obtaining an exit visa. Baghdad, when referring to Iraqi territory, includes Kuwait which it has declared its 19th province.

"If they leave Iraq without an exit visa, they would be... jailed

for life or temporarily, or their money would be confiscated," the statement said.

INA said foreigners should also inform the authorities within 48 hours about any address changes. "Violators would be imprisoned for between one and three years and would be fined," the statement said.

It added that foreigners should not visit, pass through or live in areas declared out of bounds for military, political or administrative reasons.

The agency also referred to an Aug. 25 Iraqi decision that anyone who sheltered foreigners would be hanged.

Many Western men have been rounded up and taken to vital installations in an attempt to deter attack by U.S.-led foreign troops based in the Gulf.

Western women and children have been told they can leave, once they have exit visas. Although non-Westerners also need visas by law, Asian refugees fleeing into Jordan have reported little if any attempt by Iraqi authorities there to check passports or enforce the visa requirement.

Bashir: Arabs' freedom at stake in Gulf

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military leader has warned that Arab countries could lose their freedom and oil resources because of the Western military buildup in the Gulf.

Omar Hassan Al-Bashir reiterated Sudan's rejection of the presence of American and other Western military troops in the Gulf.

"The Western military buildup in the Gulf area may end through various pretexts with Arabs losing their oil resources," Bashir said. "It may even usurp the Arabs' rights of managing their own affairs."

Bashir was addressing a gathering of Sudanese scholars and politicians in Khartoum Thursday.

Sudan is among a handful of Arab countries which have stood by Iraq since it took over Kuwait Aug. 2.

Bashir said that the presence of Western forces near the holy Islamic places in Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia, "will provoke Muslim sentiments."

He said that the foreign military buildup in the Gulf was not intended to protect Saudi Arabia but aimed at "serving its own interests and to change the geopolitical situation in the area."

The Sudanese leader vowed to continue his efforts to bring a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Bashir also warned of the serious effects of the crisis on Sudan's faltering economy.

He said that the increasing price of oil on the world market, the return of Sudanese expatriates from the Gulf and the possible halt of financial aid from the Gulf would all affect the economy.

Sudan's oil import bill will jump up to \$520 million from \$300 million during this fiscal year, Bashir said.

There are preliminary reports that Sudan has oil reserves in the south, but all exploration has been halted because of a civil war in that region.

"This will make us more determined than any time before to produce our own oil," Bashir said.

Five thousand Sudanese expatriates have so far returned from the Gulf and 1,000 more are on their way home. Remittances sent home by expatriates are one of the country's few sources of foreign currency.

Sharon leaves on mystery Soviet trip

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon left for Moscow Friday on a previously unannounced visit and Israeli media said he would apparently examine buying ready-made homes for Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Sharon, dubbed "immigration tsar" because of his duties in handling the influx, is the most senior cabinet member of the new right-wing government to visit Moscow.

Sharon flew early Friday to Paris, where he was to board a flight to Moscow.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Gulf crisis will stop Arab aid

PARIS (R) — The Arab States will be unable to maintain aid to the world's poorest countries as long as Kuwait remains under Iraqi control and the threat of war hangs over the Gulf, The Saudi ambassador to France said on Friday. Addressing the United Nations conference on least developed countries, Jamil Al Hejailan said: "As long as the aggressor is not dissuaded and legitimacy is not restored to Kuwait, the countries of the (Gulf) region would without a shadow of a doubt be unable to continue their aid." Hejailan said the oil producing countries in OPEC had agreed temporarily to raise output to lessen the impact on both poor and developed countries of the Gulf crisis. Since the Gulf states now had to give priority to the defence of their borders, he said other countries would have to make up the shortfall in assistance to poorer countries.

Iran appeals for international help

NICOSIA (R) — Tehran appealed Friday for international aid to cope with a tidal wave of half a million refugees seeking to flee into Iran from Kuwait and Iraq. "So far various governments have relayed requests for (the transit of) about 500,000 people," Deputy Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mortaki said in an interview broadcast on Tehran Radio. Some 20,000 Pakistani refugees and smaller groups from other countries have passed through Iran but international help was needed for the expected flood, he said. Mortaki said the requests to help half a million refugees was "apart from facilities requested by the Soviet government for the transfer of its citizens." He did not elaborate on the Soviet request, but Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Thursday Moscow was very concerned about 6,000 Soviet citizens still in Iraq. The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Cornelio Sommaruga, left Tehran Friday after talks that covered the refugee exodus. U.N. High Commissioner on Refugees Thorvald Stoltenberg discussed the subject in Tehran earlier this week.

Iraq shuts down restaurants

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has ordered many restaurants to shut indefinitely as part of its efforts to save food in the face of a blockade, government officials said Friday. The order excludes the cheapest restaurants and snack bars but there are also closing of limiting services because they cannot buy food. Iraq, subjected to international sanctions for its invasion of Kuwait, has introduced food rationing for its 18 million people. President Saddam Hussein said in a speech Wednesday that the blockade threatened thousands of children with starvation. "We were having lunch at a nearby restaurant when the owner came and said they were closing his place," said a Baghdad customer Thursday. Another resident said he spent hours searching for an open restaurant in the capital.

PLO in Lebanon urges attacks on U.S.

SIDON (R) — Officials from Lebanon-based factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) urged Arabs Friday to attack American interests to force U.S. troops out of the Gulf. Several military commanders from various factions made the call at a joint news conference in the Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp east of Sidon. The officials, who said they were speaking on behalf of the PLO leadership in South Lebanon, asked the Arab people to boycott U.S. goods. They called for blood donations to support the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and the people of Iraq. Witnesses said dozens of young men later queued to give blood. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has not condemned Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and has criticised the United Nations economic sanctions against Baghdad.

U.S. helicopter overruns on landing

SAUDI ARABIA (R) — Two U.S. marines were taken to hospital after their helicopter overran while landing in Saudi Arabia, a U.S. military statement said Friday. The AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopter from the Marine Corps air station in New River, North Carolina, was on a routine training mission Thursday evening about 30 miles from its undisclosed base in Saudi Arabia, it said. The pilot, Major Stephen Joseph of Jacksonville, North Carolina, suffered a minor back injury. The co-pilot, Major George F. Ranowsky, also from Jacksonville, was under observation. The accident was the third reported by U.S. military authorities in Saudi Arabia since troops began deploying there in early August. No one has died.

Turkey said to send warships to Gulf

ANKARA (R) — Turkey is preparing to send two warships to the Gulf to help enforce U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq, Foreign Ministry sources said on Friday. They said the West German-designed Meck-class frigates Faith and Turgut Reis were on standby at the Western naval port of Guelick. The 2,780-tonne vessels are armed with Harpoon surface-to-surface and sea Sparrow surface-to-air missiles. The sources said NATO-member Turkey had earmarked between 4,500 and 5,000 troops which could join U.S.-dominated multinational troops in Saudi Arabia. Turkey, which has about 95,000 troops backed by tanks and surface-to-air missiles on its rugged southern border with Iraq, says it has no immediate plans to send ground forces. Parliament Wednesday empowered the government, for only the third time in the modern republic's 67-year history, to send forces abroad. Turkey has enforced U.N. sanctions against Iraq, a major trading partner before its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

'Belgian hostages probably in Lebanon'

BRUSSELS (R) — Four Belgian hostages kidnapped by a radical Palestinian group in 1987 are probably being held in Lebanon and are not thought to have been moved to Iraq, the Belgian Foreign Ministry said Friday. A spokesman for the ministry said Thursday that Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens had told relatives the four may have been moved to join other Western hostages in Iraq. But a ministry spokesman said this was incorrect. "The minister said they are probably in Lebanon but added that there was no certainty about this," he told Reuters. Emmanuel Houckens, his wife Godelieve Kets and their children Valerie and Laurent were seized from a yacht in the Mediterranean by the Libyan-backed Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC).

Bush accepts Iraqi offer for time on Baghdad TV

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has accepted an Iraqi offer to speak directly to the people of Iraq over state-run television, calling it "a real opportunity" to explain why he has sent U.S. forces to the Gulf.

"The president has a very distinct message that he wants to give to the people of Iraq," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said as the president flew from Washington to Kansas, in the central plains, to address a rally for Governor Mike Hayden's reelection drive.

Bush, before flying to Kansas, talked with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad about the Gulf crisis.

Bush complained last week that he was not getting equal time to get his message across to the people of Iraq. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has been interviewed by a U.S. network anchorman and his speeches, delivered through a spokesman in Baghdad, have been aired at length on Cable News Network and other U.S.-based networks.

Bush, asked about Thursday's Iraqi television offer, told reporters, "It's a real opportunity. On the Iraqi television offer, Fitzwater said:

"Iraq's information minister has offered to broadcast a message from President Bush to the people of Iraq on their state-run television. Although we have not heard from Iraq directly we accept their offer of a broadcast to the Iraqi people. The president will tape a message to the Iraqi people that in the next few days will be provided to the Iraqi information minister."

Naji Al Hadithi, director general of Iraq's information ministry, said earlier Thursday in Baghdad he was making the offer on Saddam's instructions. He said an Iraqi television crew was ready to go to Washington to interview Bush.

Bush called U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Wednesday night to thank for his efforts to solve the Gulf crisis. The U.N. chief went to Jordan last week for talks with Iraq's foreign minister that failed to produce a breakthrough.

He also spoke by telephone to Turkish President Turgut Ozal, French President Francois Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to discuss the Gorbachev summit and the Gulf situation.

Bush heads to Helsinki, Finland, Friday night and will meet with Gorbachev there Sunday.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 73111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
16:45	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News Summary
18:10	Local programme
19:50	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:50	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Arabic play
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:10	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	Contact Magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
21:00	Encounter - Dr. Assad Abdi-Rahman
21:30	Classical music
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "High Desert Kill"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:51	Fajr
06:19	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:33	Dhuhr
16:07	'Asr
18:57	Maghrib
20:16	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 623566	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Assiout Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 623543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713361	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151	
Assiout International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815317, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
A slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	

20:00	Tripoli (RJ)	23:10	Damascus, Paris (AF)
03:30	Madrid (RJ)		
Other Flights (Terminal 2)			
11:30	Riyadh (add.) (SV)		
12:30	Cairo (MS)		
12:30	Abu Dhabi, Riyadh (SU)		
14:30	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)		
15:30	Rome (AZ)		
17:30	Dubai, Damascus (EK)		
21:00	Paris, Damascus (AF)		
FOR THE TRAVELLER			
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT			
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)3200-5, where it should always be verified.			
ARRIVALS			
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)			
05:05	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)		
10:10	Damascus (RJ)		
10:15	Agaba (RJ)		
10:30	Dubai (RJ)		
10:30	New Delhi (RJ)		
10:30	Cairo (RJ)		
10:35	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)		
10:55	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)		
17:00	Montreal, New York (RJ)		
18:00	London (RJ)		
19:10	Frankfurt (RJ)		
DEPARTURES			
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)			
08:00	Agaba (RJ)		
11:00	Tripoli (RJ)		
12:00	Vizna, Frankfurt (RJ)		
12:15	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)		
12:45	Madrid (RJ)		
13:15	London (RJ)		
13:45	Rome, Paris (RJ)		
15:05	Geneva, Brussels (RJ)		
21:10	Jeddah (RJ)		
21:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)		
21:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)		
22:00	Cairo (RJ)		
22:00	Doha (RJ)		
Other Flights (Terminal 2)			
09:15	Beirut (ME)		
14:00	Bahrain (GF)		
14:05	Cairo (MS)		
14:00	Riyadh (SV)		

Other Flights (Terminal 2)		MARKET PRICES	
11:30	Riyadh (add.) (SV)	Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.	
12:25	Cairo (MS)	Apple	630 / 500
13:25	Beirut (RJ)	Banana	300 / 450
14:35	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (F)	Banana (Mukammal)	450 / 400
15:25	Rome (AZ)	Beans	300 / 300
17:30	Dubai, Damascus (EK)	Cabbage	130 / 100
21:40	Pacific, Damascus (AF)	Carrot	240 / 200
		Cauliflower	260 / 200
		Gon	180 / 120
		Cucumbers (large)	140 / 90
		Cucumbers (small)	300 / 250
		Eggplant	150 / 100
		Figs	450 / 350
		Gastic	800 / 700
		Grapes (small)	350 / 300
		Grapes	450 / 220
		Leemon	250 / 200
		Mallow	120 / 80
		Marrow (large)	150 / 100
		Marrow (small)	320 / 270
		Onion (dry)	220 / 180
		Orange	450 / 400
		Okra	600 / 500
		Peaches	620 / 550
		Pear	700 / 600
		Pepper (hot)	240 / 200
		Pepper (sweet)	220 / 180
		Potato	400 / 350
		Radish	150 / 100
		Sage	600 / 500
		Sweet melon	240 / 200
		Tomatoes	130 / 90
DEPARTURES			
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights			
(Terminal 1)			
07:00	Agaba (RJ)		
07:15	Tripoli (RJ)		
07:30	Wien (RJ)		
07:15	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)		
07:30	Madrid (RJ)		
07:45	London (RJ)		
08:15	Rome, Paris (RJ)		
08:30	Geneva, Brussels (RJ)		
08:45	Jeddah (RJ)		
09:00	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)		
09:15	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (F)		
09:30	Cairo (RJ)		
09:45	Doha (RJ)		
Other Flights (Terminal 2)			
07:15	Beirut (ME)		
07:30	Bahrain (GF)		
07:45	Cairo (MS)		
08:00			

QAF, U.N. agencies organise relief training

AMMAN (Petra) — Queen Alia Jordan's Social Welfare Fund (QAF) organised in cooperation with the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRP) and United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) the first workshop on managing relief works in emergency cases at Al Nuzha Centre for Social Services.

The workshop aims at training volunteers from different parts of the Kingdom on managing emergency camps and providing the basic services to these camps.

The initiative for holding such workshops comes after UNDRP and UNHCR decided to entrust QAF with organising a series of similar workshops for the availability of technical and human resources.

The 30 participants, who come from 14 government and public committees, foundations and commissions, were divided into three groups: the first will be responsible for management and coordination inside the camp; the second will be responsible for management and coordination outside; the third will be responsible for defining the needs and for future planning.

U.N. experts, who are lecturing at the workshop, emphasised the importance of providing the camps with food and health supplies and stressed the need to preserve and store them properly.

They called for supervising the housing, nutrition and transportation operations as well as inspecting sanitary conditions and water and organising the public participation in relief operations.

They also stressed the need to secure the various facilities and pointed out to the success of the relief works in emergency camps with the participation of local government and public institutions and international organisations as well as the refugees themselves.

The participants in the workshop will receive practical training at Al Andalus evacuee camp which is managed by QAF, the Jordan Scouts and Guides Society and Save the Children Fund.

UNDRP's emergency unit head said a team from UNDRP and UNHCR toured several of the evacuee camps to review the situation there and adopt the best policy in relief works.

He expressed hope that the workshops will achieve their goals, particularly that QAF had provided all the requirements for that purpose.

ALECSO head calls for battling illiteracy

TUNIS (Petra) — Director General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation ALECSO, Musari Al Rawi said Friday that the battle with illiteracy was a multi-dimensional cultural battle, and called for galvanising political will and mass mobilisation to combat illiteracy in the Arab World.

In an address on the eve of the "World Literacy Day" which is celebrated today (Saturday), Rawi said that literacy rates were still below the expectations.

"Although the literacy rates have dropped from 51 per cent in 1985 to 44 per cent in 1989, the decrease rates are not proportionate with the population growth in the Arab region," Rawi said.

He added that the absolute number of illiterates in the Arab World has risen from 36 million in 1985 to 43 million in 1989, because of the big gap between the population growth and the decrease rates.

Studies undertaken by ALECSO have shown a great disparity in literacy rates among the Arab countries, while the rate in Iraq is 72 per cent, we find that it is 64 per cent in Somalia.

Rawi pointed out that the densely populated countries have the highest illiteracy rates. In Egypt, for example, the rate is 45 per cent, in Algeria it is 44.9, in Sudan it is 60.4 per cent, while in Morocco it is 66.6 per cent, according to 1985 statistics.

Looking at these figures, one can conclude that there are 34.3 million Arab illiterates in Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and Algeria. They suffer more than others from severe problems, including foreign indebtedness.

The lack of sufficient funds has precluded these countries from implementing their literacy programmes.

Rawi called on the Arab countries to adopt binding resolutions, endorsed by the political leaderships, making basic education a must for all children and adults by the year 2000. He stressed the need for adopting comprehensive national campaigns, involving people from all walks of life in the planning and fund-raising processes to combat illiteracy.

Rawi reviewed the organisation's programmes and plans, including the proposed Arab fund for adult education and combatting illiteracy, the pan-Arab plan for combatting illiteracy and universalising primary education by the year 1995 and the pan-Arab plan for "education for all" by the year 2000.

Jordan marks World Literacy Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Saturday observes "World Literacy Day" with the Ministry of Education trying to universalise basic education for all people through regular education at schools and literacy and adult education centres in the country.

Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan stressed Jordan's interest in providing education for all by the year 2000 and pledged Jordan's continued efforts to eradicate illiteracy by that date.

Hamdan said that this year's anniversary was of a special importance since 1990 was declared by the United Nations the year for the eradication of illiteracy and for international cooperation to provide education for all by the year 2000.

At present the country has more than 500 adult and literacy education centres designed to reduce the present rate of illiteracy in the Kingdom from 22 per cent to a mere eight per cent by the end of the present century, according to Hassan Al Usta, director of academic education at the Ministry of Education.

Usta said that adult and literacy education was started in 1965 by the Ministry of Social Development in a drive to eradicate illiteracy in Jordan.

"The task was shifted in 1968 to the Ministry of Education which introduced special programmes for four-year and two-year courses at these centres in various regions, even in the badia areas of the country," Usta said.

He said so far 106,369 persons benefited from the adult and literacy classes in Jordan.

According to Usta, the total illiterate persons in the Arab World are estimated at 23 million, in addition to nearly eight million children under the school age.

Usta said that the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan in addition to the United Nations Development Programme have together offered to finance educational projects in 61 villages.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.

FILM

- Art film entitled "Life and Works of Picasso" at Jordan National Gallery — 5:00 p.m.

Jordan worst hit by Gulf crisis — French minister

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French junior minister for humanitarian action Bernard Kouchner said Friday that Jordan's economy and society were worst hit by the fallout from the Gulf crisis and that the ongoing international relief effort was picking up pace to provide assistance to the Kingdom and ease "the human consequences of the crisis."

He told a press conference that humanitarian considerations were very much lagging behind political decisions as evidenced by the "chaotic situation" of evacuees in Jordan.

"There is a lot of dust, lack of water and facilities and lack of hope," Kouchner said. "These are hard days for these people. Some evacuees stay for eight to twelve days," the minister added.

Reviewing logistical contributions to ease the situation, Kouchner said Jordan needed "help to improve the airlift operations." He said France would send a Jumbo jet Monday to fly evacuees directly from Amman to the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka for a week. This will be followed with the dispatching of two Boeing 707 that would make 17 round trips on a shift basis.

The French minister, who met with Her Majesty Queen Noor and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, said he understood "the particular condition" of Jordan and the problems it is facing the dealing with the massive influx of evacuees escaping Kuwait and Iraq.

"A poor country like Jordan is facing a difficult economic and political situation. We salute the efforts of King Hussein and the efforts of all Jordanian volunteers and organisations."

Commenting on his country's position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and humanitarian aid for countries suffering its fallout, Kouchner said "this is one of the better examples of the mixing of humanitarian action with politics. On the one hand we are very strict in fulfilling our obligation towards the (Iraqi) withdrawal from Kuwait and the liberation of all the hostages, and on the other hand, I say this from the heart, we believe the Arab people... must know that we are not forgetting them, but we will work with them and give them, not as charity but fraternity in these hard times," he explained.

In answer to a question about criticism levelled against United Nations organisation for their handling of the situation in Jordan, Kouchner

agreed that "humanitarian action came after the political decision because of the particularity of the situation."

"...We did not discover, in time, the (depth) of the problem. It was not possible to work in Kuwait or Iraq. But even here in Jordan, we were not so aware of the magnitude of the problem of 100,000 immigrants. So you are right, (there was a) lack of organisation, especially on the part of U.N. agencies," the minister said.

"Before my coming here I did not know what was going on."

He said it was not enough to read newspapers and watch television to understand the problem and that it was important to "be in touch with the people... to be beside the people, even if you are in disagreement with them." He described this approach as "human politics."

However, the French minister said that lack of coordination in the early stages of the crisis was now changing. "Within three or four days, you will see fantastic changes in this country," he promised.

He said that unfortunately, "the poorest are the first victims in a crisis. We were not cautious enough." The minister proposed asking Turkey, Syria and Iran to open their borders for people to cross.

Prince Hassan calls on U.N. to step up efforts to repatriate evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Thursday that His Majesty King Hussein is doing his best to bring about a settlement to the Gulf crisis.

In a speech to the U.S. ABC Network Prince Hassan emphasised that the King's recent Arab and European tour aimed at diffusing the Gulf crisis and resolving the problem resulting from the influx of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait, who became stranded in Jordan, within the Arab context.

The Prince pointed out the estimates released by the U.N. Immigration Agency show that the process of transporting the evacuees could cost up to \$46 million and that "we couldn't deal with more than 6,000 persons a day while we are facing a problem of dealing with more

than a hundred thousand persons daily."

"We are facing a nightmare. We are raising the issue directly with the Iraqis and the United Nations to convince these persons to stay in Kuwait and Iraq, should it be feasible from the human perspective, otherwise we are reviewing the issue of providing them with necessary food supply and accommodation," he said.

Prince Hassan made it clear that "our stockpiles are depleting our economy. He called on the U.N. to shoulder its responsibility towards these evacuees, so that "Jordan won't be accused of abandoning a situation which has become tragic."

Prince Hassan emphasised that the U.N. should undertake the task of repatriating these evacuees to their home countries. "There is an (obvious) negligence for these groups of Asians as

attention was focused on Western subjects who are staying at hotels in Baghdad," he said in reply to a question.

The Prince added that there is (clear) shortage in the international assistance offered in this connection. He said that catering for such a human task costs Jordan more than \$20,000 a day and that Jordan has already disbursed \$40,000 from its own resources.

He made it clear that unless Jordan gets the necessary assistance, which includes the supply of 300,000 daily meals, 300,000 blankets and 300,000 tents, Jordan would find it difficult to provide the necessary protection to evacuees as "our cities and hotels are thronged with them."

The Prince voiced hope that the world's attention would be focussed on repatriating the evacuees to their home countries.

Women, children moved from Ruweished to Amman camp

AMMAN (Petra) — All evacuee women and children have been transferred from evacuee camps in Al Ruweished area to Amman International Fair Centre and Al Andalus evacuee camps near

Amman, said Secretary-General of the Interior Ministry Salameh Hammad.

Hammad, who chairs the evacuees' welfare committee, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra,

that this measure was taken within the framework of Jordan's policies aimed at reducing the evacuees' suffering during their stay in the desert.

Libyan envoy leaves for Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — Libyan envoy Col. Mustafa Al Kharroubi Friday left for Saudi Arabia at the end of a two-day official visit to Jordan during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and reviewed with him bilateral relations and the recent developments in the Gulf region.

At a meeting held Thursday, Prince Hassan stressed the need for funding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, within the Arab framework, to avoid an imminent military confrontation in the region.

The Crown Prince noted that such a solution should take into consideration the international laws and ensure the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region.

Col. Kharroubi also briefed Prince Hassan on the role played by Libyan leader Muammar Al Qadhafi to heal the Arab rift, and stressed the need for cooperation with Jordan to achieve accord among the Arab brothers, to prevent the imperialist forces from taking advantage of inter-Arab differences.

Upon his arrival Thursday Kharroubi said he was conveying a message from the Libyan President to His Majesty King Hussein. Kharroubi is accompanied on his visit by an official Libyan delegation.

CDD holds 55 training courses in Balqa

SALT (J.T.) — Civil Defence Department officers in the Balqa region have so far held 55 training courses for 1,067 male and female citizens, training them on first aid, fire fighting, and rescue operations, according to Faleh Al Gharabeh, Balqa governor.

Gharabeh said that at present CDD was holding 525 training courses for men and women at schools, youth clubs and other centres. "In addition, the CDD is undertaking a wide scale campaign to orient the citizens on matters required from them during emergencies," Gharabeh said.

CDD and local departments have carried out cleaning and maintenance campaigns at various public shelters, tested the sirens and made other preparations. At the same time training of the public in the use of light arms was going ahead according to schedule at the People's Army centres throughout the governorate.

In Ramtha CDD has announced the opening of five new training centres and said that 536 people had so far been trained on civil defence work.

Indian politician appeals to international community to speed up evacuation process

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — No further delay could be tolerated in the process of evacuating Indian nationals stranded in Kuwait, Iraq and Jordan, and the Indian government should immediately launch an international effort to have the U.N., as well as the United States, clarify that the embargo does not cover food and medicine which mean humanitarian relief.

"The expatriate community will be the first to suffer because of the sanctions, and Indians form the bulk of the expatriates in Kuwait," he noted. "Nobody should die of starvation."

"Let (the American-led) sanction imposes in the Gulf and elsewhere) intercept the ship or plane carrying the supplies," he said. "That will bring the entire issue into international focus and, if anything, will accelerate efforts to find a solution to the humanitarian element of the problem."

Faleiro, a member of parliament from Goa, is accompanied by fellow Congress (I) parliamentarian T. Bashir from Kerala. They were received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

"We are in total agreement with the perceptions of Jordan vis-a-vis the Kuwait crisis," Faleiro told the Jordan Times. "We do not condone Iraq's takeover and annexation of Kuwait, but at the same time we also believe that the international outcry and moves against Iraq, particularly in the

context of U.N. Security Council resolutions, should also be directed at Israel, which has definitely refused to implement U.N. resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict."

This does not mean, Faleiro stressed, that "we are diluting our opposition to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. But we believe that the international community should apply the same yardstick to measure the Kuwait crisis as well as Israel's occupation of Arab territories."

Faleiro and Bashir, who flew into Baghdad Friday afternoon for a "firsthand look at the situation of Indians in Iraq, and if possible, in Kuwait, visited the Iraqi-Jordanian border post of Ruweished where at least 15,000 Indians are among 60,000 evacuees held back at desert camps awaiting their turn to come into Amman to take homeward flights.

"We have seen the suffering of our people in the camps," said Faleiro. "There should no longer be any delay whatsoever on the part of our government to launch an all-out effort to speed up the evacuation. At the rate the process is going today, it would take months before people are evacuated."

For instance, he said, "we were told that it takes 18 hours for the 360-kilometre trip from the border post to Amman. This is inhuman. Some of these people have spent as many as 10 days in the desert camp under miserable, sub-human living conditions."

"This is not acceptable," he said.

"We realise that the government and the embassy here have done a great deal but it is simply inadequate and meagre when seen in light of the magnitude of the problem."

In addition, he suggested that Arabic-speaking Indian officials be assigned at the Al Ruweished post and other camps for Indian evacuees in Amman. "There is a communication gap, and this could only be addressed by Arabic speakers," he said.

According to Faleiro, "there is a pressing urgency for evacuating our people," but he declined to specify what the pressing reason was. However, his comment indicated that he was aware of the rising tension among Kuwaiti resistance, Iraqi soldiers and Palestinian expatriates in Kuwait which, according to some sources accessible to the Jordan Times, could herald a major outbreak of violence soon.

At a later stage in the interview, Faleiro said that "there is a great danger of the Gulf crisis turning into a conflict with global dimensions and every effort should be made to avert such an eventuality."

Faleiro reaffirmed his party's position, which is identical with the stand of the Indian government, that the problem should be resolved in a regional context. "We also agree with the Jordanian viewpoint that the presence of the great powers has turned the situation very critical and explosive," he said. "We support article 4 of U.N. Resolution 660 (condemning Iraq for its takeover of

Kuwait) and believe in the effective role of the Arab League to resolve the problem."

The parliamentarian, however, said, "the promises of speedy evacuation by planes and ships made by (Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar) Gujral after his visit to Iraq and Kuwait (in the third week of August) have not been fulfilled in full."

The Indian government has "also failed totally to mobilise the international community to realise and appreciate the gravity of the problem and to ensure the smooth movement of people towards their homes."

Faleiro said he recognised that Jordan was straining under the massive burden imposed on it by the evacuation process and called on all countries, particularly those of the Indian sub-continent, the Philippines and Thailand, to step up their efforts to speed up the departure of their nationals from Jordanian soil.

"The international community should also realise the magnitude of the problem," he added. "Everyone, whether Asian, European or American, has a responsibility to ensure that this human tragedy be addressed properly with all help that could be extended."

"Jordan, which has its own economic problems, should not be left alone to share the burden, and all international agencies and organisations should step forward with all sincerity and honesty to deal with the situation," he said.

Vocational training offered to job-seekers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation will be offering special training courses to students who had completed the 10th grade, as well as other courses for those completing the seventh grade, according to VTC Director-General Ahmad Atwan.

He said that two-year training courses would be offered to students completing at least the 10th grade, and one-year training courses will be offered to those completing the 7th grade.

The new courses will start as of this year, Atwan said.

He noted that the corporation would hold special training courses for trainers and supervisors and short term courses of six months to workers with limited skills.

He said special training would be provided to those wishing to change their vocations, and for job-seekers. These short term courses are in line with the government's policy to train job-seekers in areas like industrial sewing, hotel services, bakeries, truck driving and sales.

ADC stages protest against U.S. policy in Middle East

By Sahar Qara'een
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee Amman chapter members together with the graduates of United States universities and their families in Jordan demonstrated Thursday at the American embassy to express dissatisfaction with and bewilderment at United States government policy of starving the Iraqi children as a means of waging war, and the U.S. double standard of applying the United Nations resolutions in the Middle East.

While the U.S. is exerting pressure on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, it is ignoring the United Nations Resolution 242 which calls for the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The number of demonstrators was estimated to be around two hundred persons, including businessmen and professionals in Jordan.

The head of ADC's Amman chapter, Nidal Sukhtian, transmitted the demonstrators' feelings to the American Deputy Chief of Mission in Amman Patrick Theros. He said that he "felt a softer position being taken by

the American government away from the harsh British stand of Mrs. Thatcher."

He added that Theros explained that "the U.S. government is cooperating with the United Nations on implementing the details of the humanitarian side of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq, and working to find ways and means of allowing food and medicine into Iraq."

Asked why the U.S. is blocking any negotiations with Iraq, which could diffuse tensions and war possibilities, Theros answered that "the U.S. will negotiate with Iraq after it declares acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 661."

comparing it to Israel's acceptance of the U.N. Resolution 242."

Sukhtian told the Jordan Times Thursday that according to Theros "the U.S. had no position on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border dispute before, and would like to leave it to the disputing parties themselves to sort it out once the U.N. resolution is accepted."

The U.N. Resolution 661 calls for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

When the Jordanian delegations expressed its discontent at U.S. apathy towards the Palestinian problem, the numerous

U.N. resolutions regarding the occupied territories, the repatriation of the Palestinian people and withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied territories. Theros drew the delegation's attention to the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement to the Senate Wednesday, in which he emphasised the necessity of addressing the Palestinian plight and the U.N. resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In his statement to the Senate, Baker also emphasised that the Palestinian issue should be addressed by the U.S. government and is on its agenda.

Concerning the unfair treatment of Jordan at the pressure the U.S. is applying against Jordan, Theros said "the U.S. is considering extending help to Jordan since it is sticking to the U.N. sanctions." But he added that "it will take a while because of the understandable red tape."

Commenting on press reports released on His Majesty King Hussein's visit to the U.S., Theros said the reports were unfair and confirmed that King Hussein was met with all due respect by President Bush, adding that the press claims were "unfounded."

Theros also clarified that the de-

lay in the Bush-Hussein meeting came upon the request of His Majesty King Hussein to allow for the time difference and to give His Majesty time to recover from jetlag.

It was made clear by the delegation that the demonstrators were disappointed by the U.S. policy regarding the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict, and angered by the hypocritical reaction of the U.S. regarding this situation and the U.S. intention of starving millions of innocent Iraqi and Kuwaiti people, including women and children.

The demonstrators expressed their surprise at the American people's acquiescence with this policy which "contradicts the ideology of human rights and other values extolled by Jefferson, Washington and Lincoln."

Theros, according to Sukhtian, promised to convey the demonstrators' message through the appropriate channels to the U.S. government. Theros confirmed to the delegation that the U.S. had no intention of waging war against Iraq, saying "we are there only to protect Saudi Arabia."

He denied allegations that the U.S. policy is conducted by the British or by Mrs. Thatcher.

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View from Amman

The 1990 Gulf crisis: A scenario of how and why

By Kamel Abu Jaber

HOW was it that Iraq behaved the way it did and ended up occupying Kuwait? Just as importantly is the question; how is it that Kuwait, in the months prior to its invasion, on Aug. 2, 1990, also behaved the way it did? I want to ask "who stands to benefit from the behaviour of these two parties in the way they behaved?" And finally comes the question as to whether both Iraq and Kuwait, though for different reasons, were drawn unwittingly to behave the way they did.

For a long time now the West, and in particular the United States, have been known to be drawing up alternative scenarios and plans as to ways whereby the sources of oil in the Middle East can come under their direct influence. The matter became of utmost importance in the wake of the 1973 October war and the quadrupling of the price of oil in a very short time. In addition to the price of oil, and just as importantly remains the matter of a steady uninterrupted supply. Supply that

should not be left to the whim or whimsy of this or that particular sheikh, regime, OPEC or even the OPEC oil cartel. Western civilisation, indeed the entire economy of the world depended on oil. Questions as to the propriety of leaving oil supplies, the very life line of modern civilisation in the hands of shaky sheikhs became of immediate concern and worry to Western planners.

It was thus that from around the mid nineteen seventies that several alternative scenarios as to how to control not only oil price, but also oil supplies in a steady manner, began to be contemplated. These scenarios had as their background, of course, the various Western, especially American doctrines issued against possible attempts by the Soviet Union to make a dash for the oil fields of the Middle East.

In his book, *The Kingdom*, 1981, P.S. Robert Lacey speaks of Saudi Arabia in a most unsympathetic manner. At one point he says, "It is a power of astonishing fragility.

The USSR could invade Saudi oil fields tomorrow. So, of course could the USA, and contingency planners of both sides of the iron curtain regularly update their scenarios for doing precisely that. But each super power holds back from the grab through fear of the other.... Is it possible that the Soviet Union has collapsed as a political and economic power, engineered precisely that? And this in view of the American presidential declarations commencing with F.D. Roosevelt through Eisenhower, Nixon, Carter and later Reagan that the oil region of the Gulf is a vital interest of the United States that it would "defend" at all costs.

It is against this background that began formulating the theory that the whole affair was staged, produced and executed with forethought and foreplay. It was at precisely the moment that the Iran-Iraq war ended that the facet of anti-Arab, and in particular anti-Iraqi hate campaign was commenced. Silence, indeed en-

couragement to Iraq was maintained throughout the war years with Iran. Once that ended the campaign to cause Iraq to behave the way it did by invading Kuwait was commenced. American planners, adept in attitudinal studies, and well versed in the history and the nature of the Iraqi and their leadership and temperament designed the campaign against that country in such a fashion that it was lured to behave exactly the way it did.

On the other side, though for different reasons and motivations, the Kuwaitis were baited to behave exactly the way they did. Otherwise how can one explain their treatment of the Iraqi complaints — whether true or not — against them? The Kuwaitis have traditionally been well known to be not only careful but very moderate and calculating in their approach to things. Why did they ignore the Iraqi complaints, again whether true or false, against them? They knew that Iraq was undergoing a terrible economic crisis. They knew that Iraq had just

emerged from a bloody conflict, which cost nearly a million lives dead, wounded and maimed. They knew that entire Iraqi towns and villages were totally devastated; and they knew of Iraq's historical claims to their country. Why, with their cool headedness, business acumen and wise leadership did they ignore the angry tiger next door? What induced them to do that? Who gave them the impression that they cannot be invaded? And why?

This does not emanate from a conspiratorial mentality in as much as it does from a realistic assessment of facts. Conclusion borne out and substantiated by the events of the past few days. Secretary of State James Baker already let the cat out of the bag when he declared that Western troops would not be leaving the region for a long time while also emphasising the need to conclude a regional defence pact to legitimise that presence.

How else could the United States establish military bases in the region, and not against

the will of the people of the area, but with the request and active consent of some of them. The United States has military bases in most areas of the world except in this most vital Middle East region. The West has not only the Islamic blessings through Saudi Arabia and Morocco also Arab nationalist blessings through Syria and Egypt. It is thus that it is entering the region through the widest of possible gates and with a red carpet unfolding before it.

If this scenario is correct in its assessment, then a military confrontation between Iraq and the West becomes not only unnecessary, but down right stupid. For, on the other hand, should Iraq be somehow rolled back or defeated, the need for Western troops in the area would not be apparent. In such a scenario, should it be true, the West needs Iraq to remain where it is as the continuously threatening "big bad wolf" of the neighbourhood whose inhabitants need outside protection.

A possible watershed!

THE HELSINKI summit between Gorbachev and Bush Sunday could very well be the watershed that would determine whether war will break out in the Middle East or that a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis will be found. It is a foregone conclusion that without a green light from Moscow, Washington would think a thousand times before opting for a military confrontation with Iraq. This is true even though the stature of the Soviet Union as a superpower has diminished tremendously of late under the leadership of Gorbachev. Accordingly, the eyes of the world are focusing on the Soviet Union and on which way it chooses to play its cards in the Middle East. Uppermost on the mind of the Gorbachev is where his country is going to end up at the end of tunnel when the crisis is finished and done with. With Washington working feverishly to reestablish some kind of Western oriented military alliance in the Middle East and all the Arab countries supportive of Washington firmly on the side of military escalation and military showdown, Moscow will be out in the cold should Washington decide to launch an attack against Iraq.

Washington is now trying to strengthen its hold on the Middle East and that would leave the Soviet Union and its strategic interests out on a limb. This is perhaps how Gorbachev would see the situation when he meets with his U.S. counterpart. For Moscow knows very well that it is more likely than not to end up without any friends strategic or otherwise if war breaks out in the Gulf. Doubtless Gorbachev does not expect Egypt or Saudi Arabia or the other Gulf states or even Syria which are all now committed to the Western cause to give his country any preferential treatment when the dust settles down in the Middle East. That is why the Soviet leader must be very careful with his calculations lest he and his country lose the remaining few footholds that it still has in the Arab World. Thus far the signals from Moscow are contradictory. At the outset, Moscow encouraged the U.S. to take the law into its own hands by consenting to the string of U.N. Security Council resolutions recently adopted on the Gulf conflict. Then it appeared to back up a bit when it voiced a belated concern about the U.S. buildup in the Gulf region sensing for the first time that the Western massive military presence in the area poses a real threat to its vital strategic interests and security. Whatever chessgame Gorbachev is playing in the Middle East, the door is open for Moscow to make a lasting impact on the area. We hope it will be a positive one.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday drew a contrast between the attitudes of the Jordanian leadership and media and those of the other Arab countries benefiting from the present crisis in the Gulf. Jordan has always refused to become an opportunist nor did it ever direct its policies in a manner to serve its own selfish interests at the expense of the higher Arab interests, said the paper. Never has Jordan accepted the role of a witness to a conspiracy designed to do harm to the Arab nation and its future generations, said the paper. Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, King Hussein, the Jordanian government and media rose above all petty issues and ignored hostile campaigns being waged against the Kingdom by certain Arab states, said the paper. No word of insult or calumny was uttered by Jordanian leaders against the Arab states which have been involved in a hostile campaign against Jordan and its leadership; and the newspapers of the Arab countries are still allowed to be sold in Jordan despite their contents that pour criticism and attack on the country, said the paper. In contrast, Arab countries had banned Jordanian newspapers and took a very hostile attitude towards Jordan which adopts a national stand with regard to the Gulf crisis, and refuses to benefit from cheap moments that could satisfy self-interests, the paper continued. Jordan's leadership, people and media can never compromise on national interests and can only ridicule any attempts that are intended to divert the country from its present national course, the paper said.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily, columnist Khaled Mahadeen said thanks to the present Gulf crisis, the Arab masses have finally discovered those treacherous elements lingering within their ranks. The Gulf crisis has finally removed the false masks that used to conceal certain faces among Arab leaders, and has opened the eyes of the Arab people to the real facts about the situation in their region, says Mahadeen. Thanks to the Iraqi heroes since their moves helped to reveal the secret names found in George Bush's books and ledgers years before he became president, says the writer. It was only due to Iraq's move in the Gulf that the Arab masses have finally been given the chance to differentiate between the true and the false Arabs and to realise for sure the identity of those leaders who continue to need American and British forces to provide them with protection from their own people, the writer continues. He says that the image presented by the Western media about the Arabs nowadays in general is shameful, and one that speaks of them as people without any dignity as they call for the rebirth of the age of colonialism. This has come about, says the writer, due to the presence of certain Arab leaders who continue to appeal to the invaders and the foreign forces to come to the Arab land and call on them to destroy Iraq and burn the Iraqi people. But, says the writer, despite such ill calls, Washington and London realise that an aggression on Iraq is not a bed of roses, and that war could destroy their own interests and their Arab agents in the region altogether.

Al Dustour daily launches a severe attack on British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher who is keeping up a crusade against Iraq and is maintaining its repeated calls for the use of force to bring down the regime of Saddam Hussein. The paper said that Thatcher's beating of the drums of war can by no means bring fear to the Arabs who had overthrown the British empire when it launched its 1956 aggression on them. We would like to see Thatcher explain the real reasons behind her crusade against Iraq, and the Arabs at large as perhaps it could convince one person of her views, said the paper. The days of colonialism can never return, said the paper.

Shevardnadze visit breaking the Soviet-Japan stalemate?

By Irene Kuniil
Reuters



Eduard Shevardnadze

TOKYO — A tiny cluster of barren islands in the North Pacific, governed by Moscow but claimed by Tokyo, still blocks rapid improvement in Soviet-Japanese relations despite high-level talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. Shevardnadze, winding up a Tokyo visit on Friday, offered no speedy solution to the territorial dispute that has kept bilateral relations, and a formal World War II peace treaty, on hold since Soviet troops overran the four islands in 1945.

But Japanese experts said they saw some progress in Shevardnadze's remark that the islands formed the "most difficult but most important" aspect of a peace treaty, one that should be dealt with while bilateral relations advance overall.

Analysts also said Tokyo would have to make the next move if it wants further progress when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev makes a historic visit to Japan next April.

"Shevardnadze said the islands issue should be included in an overall resolution of bilateral problems," said Tokyo University Professor Haruki Wada, citing points of progress.

"The Soviet Union is saying this clearly and it's also calling on Japan to make a decision," said the Soviet expert.

Japan has refused to improve economic relations with Moscow until it regains the islands that stretch northeast of its main northern island of Hokkaido. The nearest is 10 miles from Japan's shores.

Tokyo claims the islands on the grounds of first settlement while Moscow says the wartime Yalta agreement gives it control over all the Kurile Islands in the North Pacific. Japan maintains the four

islands are not part of the Kurile chain.

A senior foreign ministry official said Japan was changing its approach by offering to expand cultural and technical cooperation in ten areas while work continues on a peace treaty.

Shevardnadze said on Friday, however, that his government saw no significant shift in Japan's position.

"It's always been all (the islands) or nothing (in return)," he told a news conference before leaving Japan.

Shevardnadze indicated his side was prepared to compromise on the territorial issue "but only in the spirit of rational dialogue."

"If Japan wants to solve the dispute it will have to be prepared to compromise," said Soviet expert Wada. "The bureaucrats will not be able to, so it will be up to the (ruling) Liberal Democratic Party."

He said former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, who visited Moscow last spring to press for a breakthrough, would likely play a key role in a compromise plan that could see Japan agreeing to joint administration of the islands

or a return of two of the group of four.

"Abe wants to be the next prime minister and negotiating a compromise would help him along," Wada said.

Hiroshi Kimura, a Soviet expert at Hokkaido University, said the four islands had little economic value or strategic importance as the Soviet military threat declined.

"I believe when he comes Gorbachev will propose withdrawal of troops from the islands, officially acknowledge the territorial dispute, and offer to give back two islands."

In 1956 Moscow offered to return the two islands closest to Japan — Shikotan and Habomai — and to negotiate the return of Etorofu and Kunashiri after conclusion of a peace treaty. Japan rejected the offer.

Another foreign ministry official close to the negotiations ruled out a big breakthrough next April when Gorbachev arrives as the first Soviet leader to visit Japan.

"We don't expect to solve the territorial problem in the first summit meeting next year," the Asahi newspaper quoted the official as saying. "But we'll start a process by which Gorbachev will come here first and then the Japanese prime minister will go to Moscow."

Political and business leaders are also beginning to clamour for a resolution of the dispute as the Soviet Union warns to Western Europe and the United States. Shin Kanemaru, a high-profile powerbroker in the ruling LDP, said recently Japan should agree to the return of the two islands to Moscow.

Eiji Suzuki, head of the Keidanren group of business leaders, warned this week that Japan was being "left behind" by insisting the island issue be resolved.

Bush intends to help Gorbachev, not hem in

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press



Mikhail Gorbachev



George Bush

WASHINGTON — Grateful for Soviet backing in the Gulf, President George Bush is unlikely to try to push Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev beyond his political limits when they meet Sunday in Finland.

At the same time, Bush will try to help Gorbachev where he needs it the most — his ailing economy.

Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher will take some 15 chiefs of U.S. corporations to Moscow to begin discussions on large-scale technical cooperation. Secretary of State James Baker, meanwhile, will discuss with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze U.S. offers to help improve areas such as banking, housing, the tax system and distribution networks.

Baker delivered a list of nine projects to Shevardnadze in Paris in mid-July. They followed an initial discussion between Bush and Gorbachev at the Malta Summit last December, and Bush intends to pursue the subject at Helsinki, provided the Gulf crisis does not take up all their time.

A leader of the Communist Party's traditionalist wing told 2,500 delegates at a Russian party congress Tuesday that Gorbachev's reform programme is "on the brink of collapse."

Ivan K. Polozkov, first secretary of the Communist Party in the Russian Republic, drew vigorous applause from the delegates. The group includes many generals and career party officials who are believed to harbour reservations about Gorbachev's policies — on both the economic and Gulf fronts.

Many of those same conservatives do not seem to agree with the Soviet leader and Shevardnadze, his chief interlocutor with the U.S. administration, that the cold war is over.

Gen. Vladimir Lohov, the military chief of the Warsaw Pact, was quoted last week as expressing grave doubts about the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf area. According to TASS, the Soviet News Agency, he warned that it "drastically changes the strategic balance in the region."

Fighting to keep his reforms going, Gorbachev cannot risk it all by going much further than he has to accommodate Bush in his campaign against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

After some initial hesitation, the Soviets voted Aug. 6 in the United Nations Security Council for a worldwide economic boycott of Iraq and then, on Aug. 25, after more hesitation, to use force to implement it.

In both instances, the Soviets could have killed the U.S. moves with their veto. Gorbachev chose instead to support Bush in what is the most dramatic gesture of superpower cooperation since the waning of the cold war.

"I don't know where we would be with this effort if it were not for the cooperation and enlightened new thinking of the Soviet leadership," Baker told the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday.

And yet, to keep peace with their political foes, Gorbachev

and Shevardnadze also are stressing the explosive nature of the situation in the Gulf and urging a speedy political settlement. It is a view endorsed last weekend in Beijing by Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen after three hours of talks with Shevardnadze. If Bush could have his way, the Soviets would yank the 193 military advisers and some 1,000 other Soviet nationals involved in training, maintenance and other military-related tasks in Iraq. They are remnants of the Kremlin's long-term close military ties to the Iraqi government.

"We think, quite frankly, it is inappropriate to be providing any military assistance to Iraq at the present time and we will continue to talk to the Soviets about the 193," Baker told the House Committee.

But he said it was not clear the Soviet advisers are free to leave. Some 8,000 Soviet nationals are in Iraq and Kuwait. A key U.S. objective at the Helsinki Summit, according to a senior U.S. official, is to assure the Soviets that the 26-nation military operation in the Gulf is not directed against Moscow. The Soviets have close ties to a number of Arab countries and clearly do not want the area dominated by the United States.

Gulf crisis deals severe blow to East bloc economic reform

By Stephen Jukes
Reuters

LONDON — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has unwittingly dealt a blow to Eastern European economic reform, tying the hands of the region's governments and Western aid partners alike.

Soaring world oil prices will hit hard in East Bloc states dependent upon imports and at the same time limit the cash available in the West to help the reformist process it applauded so enthusiastically before the Gulf crisis broke.

"The Gulf crisis has posed a major problem for Eastern Europe," said Mike Barry, oil analyst at Research Group Energy Market Consultants Ltd. in London. "It couldn't have come at a worse possible time."

Finance ministers from Eastern Europe are expected to step up pressure for additional Western aid at the end of this month during the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank in Washington.

But with Western budgets

under increasing strain from the fall-out of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, East European nations may have to resign themselves to a long haul without extra help in the transition from communist economies to the free market.

Since the spectacular collapse of the communist order in Eastern Europe last year, the region's newly elected governments have sought to shake off the 40-year legacy of central planning and switch to Western-style free markets.

But the Gulf oil crisis has hit Eastern Europe at its most vulnerable — in the middle of the transition before a fully developed modern economy is in place to absorb the shock.

The Soviet Union — the world's largest oil producer — will benefit from the \$10-a-barrel price rise since the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, but nations such as Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania have already been hit hard.

The London-based investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) has calculated that each

five dollar increase in the price of oil could add about three billion dollars a year to the import bill of the economies of Eastern Europe.

But the bank also cautions against relying too heavily on such gloomy "back of the envelope" arithmetic, not least because energy demand in Eastern Europe could well be falling fast as economies deteriorate and industrial production plunges.

The region, almost totally dependent on imported oil, was in any case heading for an energy crunch. But not so soon.

Moscow had already served notice it was going to charge for its oil supplies in hard currency at world prices from next January 1, abandoning its system of barter and subsidised sales.

Even before the Gulf crisis broke, it was clear that the Soviet Union was facing production problems and would no longer be able to supply Eastern Europe nations with all its oil needs.

Some East European nations had been able to cushion the impact by signing barter agreements with Iraq to take oil in

payment for weapons supplied during the Gulf war with Iran. But now Iraqi supplies have dried up and Eastern Europe is having to pay for some oil in hard currency at sharply higher prices as markets push towards \$50 per barrel.

"The oil price rise will add to the already serious problems Eastern Europe was confronting," said Jim Rollo, economist at the London-based Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Despite a meeting with Soviet officials in Warsaw last week, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Poland failed to persuade Moscow to raise supplies to make up for the shortfall which some economists believe could be as high as 30 per cent.

But the problems stem not just from oil.

— Crowding out. Attempts to support the transition from communism to capitalism had dominated the Western political agenda for 12 months before the Gulf crisis broke. Now the focus has abruptly switched, with new demands on budgets raising fears in Eastern Europe that the region

will be temporarily forgotten. U.S. President George Bush has sent Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady on a world tour to seek support for Washington's military buildup in the Gulf. The "peace dividend" many Western nations had been looking forward to at the end of the cold war has suddenly evaporated.

New aid priorities have emerged. European Community foreign ministers will on Friday discuss possible help for "front line" countries such as Egypt and Jordan suffering from the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq. Bush is also planning to forgive Cairo's seven billion dollars of military debt to the United States.

World recession. Monetary officials say the IMF and World Bank are taking a fairly sanguine view of the impact of the crisis and believe a \$25 to \$30 oil price could cut growth in the industrialised world by 0.5 to 0.75 of a percentage point.

But even if a world recession can be avoided, a contraction in growth will make life more difficult for Eastern Europe at a time when it is trying to restructure industry and increase hard currency earnings by exporting more to the West.



Saddam Hussein

when it is trying to restructure industry and increase hard currency earnings by exporting more to the West.

Debt. A major rise in interest rates to keep lid on oil-driven inflation would add to the burden of servicing Eastern Europe's \$100 billion of debt. So far, with the United States, Canada and Britain already close to recession, there has been no across-the-board move to tighten policy in response to any oil-led surge in inflation.

Drive carefully! Traffic can be hazardous

Jordan observes sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

cost of... training our pilots they have been trained in Iraq because it is affordable and here it is not.

"If the French or the British or the Americans would want to give our pilots that opportunity we are more than happy to send them," he declared.

China said Thursday that Iraq should be given food and medicine on humanitarian grounds, but pressed a visiting Iraqi envoy to quickly withdraw his country's troops from Kuwait.

The official Xinhua news agency said Chinese Vice Premier Wu Xueqian met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan on Thursday. Iraq's official news agency said Ramadan's visit was to discuss increased bilateral assistance.

Xinhua did not mention aid, but said Ramadan presented Iraq's position on the Gulf crisis. Wu reiterated China's opposition to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and urged a withdrawal "as soon as possible," but also opposed the use of force by superpowers.

Wu also expressed support for mediation efforts by Arab countries and the United Nations.

Earlier Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Li Jinhua said Ramadan's visit was at the request of the Iraqi government but refused to state its purpose.

However, she said the U.N. resolution establishing economic sanctions against Iraq clearly exempts "supplies intended strictly for medical purposes and foodstuffs for humanitarian purposes."

Her remarks appeared to indicate that China was willing to provide food for Iraq, with which it has strong ties. China sold Iraq billions of dollars worth of weapons during the Iran-Iraq war, while also selling arms to the Iranians.

China voted in favour of the U.N. Security Council's resolution imposing the embargo against Iraq. Beijing pledged to abide by the U.N. sanctions, which include a ban on arms sales.

However, Beijing was reluctant in its support of a later resolution allowing foreign powers to use military force to enforce the embargo.

Americans in Saudi desert suffer from diarrhea, heat rash

By Joan Mower
The Associated Press

DHAHRAN — Soldiers are suffering from diarrhea, heat rash and other "run of the mill" ailments common to Americans moving to a foreign country, medical specialists say.

For the most part, military doctors said in interviews that the 100,000 or so U.S. troops have been remarkably healthy.

"We've had some colds, some gastroenteritis, that's about it," said Lieutenant Colonel Jim Mattis, who commands a marine brigade camped in the desert.

Nevertheless, the U.S. military is erecting a sophisticated network of medical facilities, including 15 hospitals capable of providing virtually any type of surgery and care to injured Americans should combat break out.

"We are fully capable of providing the best medical care in the world," said Captain Richard Mayo, head of a 500-bed navy field hospital housed in 24 air conditioned tents, each about six metres by 30 metres.

Hundreds of doctors and nurses — Mayo's hospital will have 800 medical personnel alone — are in Saudi Arabia or are on their way from the United States.

Their skills are so varied and the equipment is so sophisticated that they will be able to perform neurosurgery, heart surgery and

orthopedic surgery. Field hospitals have laboratories, X-ray facilities, operating rooms, dental clinics and psychiatric units.

All supplies, from narcotics to hospital beds, have been sent from the United States.

U.S. Military officials say troops in the oil-rich kingdom are in a defensive posture, but the range of medical technology shipped here underscores the degree to which officials want to prepare for combat injuries.

For the time being, doctors have been concerned about treating training injuries and lesser medical complaints.

Army officials said 14 people have been evacuated for medical

reasons, including three people who have broken bones and two who experienced psychological problems.

But, Major Jack Wright, a physician with the 44th medical brigade that controls hospitals for the army, said most complaints have been less serious.

"It's usually run-of-the-mill kinds of things," Wright said. He sees about 40 people a day at an army clinic.

The most prevalent complaint is diarrhea, usually brought on by a change in the water or the food. The army regularly tests the water to make sure it is safe to drink, he said.

The stomach problem usually lasts about 24 hours and is treatable with over-the-counter drugs.

Colds and heat rashes also are common, medical authorities said.

Despite scorching temperatures, few soldiers have come down with dehydration, partly because the military has drilled into them the importance of drinking enough water. Some men drink up to four gallons a day.

Fever is particularly dangerous in a hot climate so when soldiers get one they are often given liquid intravenously to prevent dehydration.

In the desert, the big problems are sanitation and sand, Mattis said.

"We have to keep the food out of the sand," he said. "And we

have a wash rack built so people can wash their hands."

Before coming to Saudi Arabia, soldiers were given shots to prevent cholera, meningitis and hepatitis.

The environment also plays havoc with medical supplies, according to Major Mike Calder, chief nurse at the 28th combat support hospital.

The 200-bed "bubble" facility — blown-up rubberised tubes that look like giant caterpillars — is being set up in the desert.

The heat tends to shorten the shelf-life of drugs, meaning it is unlikely that unused medical supplies will be taken back to the United States when the U.S. presence ends.

U.N. agencies appeal

(Continued from page 1)

whose economies have been badly hit by the crisis and U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Fabrizio Gentilini, a senior UN-DRO official said in Geneva the response by the international community to the Jordan crisis had been slow.

"There is no risk of duplicating efforts since international help is not as forthcoming as we would have hoped," Gentilini said.

"We haven't done anything on such a massive scale since Ethiopia," said Gentilini.

U.N. and non-governmental relief agencies undertook a similar operation in 1984-85 in Ethiopia when the combined effects of drought and civil war killed at least one million people.

"The situation in Jordan is very serious and all U.N. agencies are mobilised," Gentilini told Reuters. In Tokyo officials said Japan had decided to give an extra \$12 million in emergency aid for Asians in Jordan and other countries who have fled Iraq and Kuwait.

Japan's aid will account for 51 per cent of the \$23.5 million requested by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) of Japan and other countries through the U.N. relief coordination office, said Yutaka Yokoi, a Foreign Ministry official. As of Aug. 25, Japan had extended \$10 million to help evacuees in Jordan.

Also last week, Japan announced a \$1-billion programme to help pay for the U.S.-led Western forces in the Gulf.

The programme includes a medical team of about 100 people, the transport of food, water and medical supplies by chartered civil aircraft and ships, and the provision of water, air conditioning and prefabricated housing units for the Gulf forces.

In a news conference Friday morning, Chief Cabinet Secretary Mitsuji Sakamoto said an undetermined number of medical teams would be sent to Saudi Arabia and nearby countries.



A scene from one of the Ruwished camps (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

The Swedish government Friday decided to contribute 30 million kronor (\$5.2 million) to the repatriation of the evacuees.

Minister of Foreign Aid Lena Hjelm-Wallen said poor coordination between donor countries and aid organisations had delayed refugee repatriation and aid efforts.

"But the coordination is now starting to get better," she said. The repatriation fund is part of a 50-million kronor (\$8.6-million) aid package announced last week to help relieve the plight of the mostly Asian and Arab guest-workers.

Philippine Airlines announced Friday it will divert flights from Europe to pick up Filipinos stranded in refugee camps in Jordan.

A statement by the state-run carrier said Saturday's flight from London would proceed from Frankfurt, West Germany to Amman and return

to Manila the next day. Tuesday's flight from London will stop at Frankfurt and fly to Amman instead of Karachi, Pakistan and Bangkok, Thailand.

Another flight from Paris Wednesday, which normally stops at Amsterdam, Dubai and Bangkok, will skip the last two stops and go to Amman.

The statement said the three flights are operated by Boeing 747s and can accommodate up to 1,107 returning Filipino workers.

Kuwait's crown prince said Friday that his toppled government was prepared to give aid in the thousands of evacuees in refugee camps in Jordan.

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who is also prime minister, said that "the Kuwaiti government will study in detail the situation on these refugees."

"We shall do all that we can to help them," he told a news conference in Rome. He gave no details.

U.N. chief ready to resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

might otherwise regard such a visit as implicit recognition of the Iraqi "occupation."

Kuwaiti Ambassador Mubammad Abul Hasan said such a mission would be welcome as long as it did not imply that Iraq's "occupation" force had any legitimacy.

Annun is the top U.N. personnel officer. He has been in the region for weeks, trying to persuade Iraq to let foreigners leave Iraq and Kuwait, and to respect the diplomatic privileges and immunities of foreign envoys in Kuwait.

Iraq says Kuwait is now an Iraqi province and has ordered all foreign embassies and consulates closed and moved to Baghdad. Most Western nations are keeping staff at their embassies in defiance of the Iraqi order.

Perez de Cuellar also said he was thinking of launching an appeal on behalf of tens of thousands of refugees from Iraq camped on the border with Jordan as well as others who had fled to Turkey and Iraq.

A Security Council source told Reuters the secretary general quoted Tareq Aziz as having complained that it took the council seven years to adopt Resolution 598 of July 1987, setting out a plan for ending the Iran-Iraq war but only seven hours to pass Resolution 660 condemning Iraq and demanding that it pull out of Kuwait.

The Iraqi foreign minister was also said to have complained that his country had been unable to present its case fully to the council, where it was represented only by its deputy U.N. envoy.

Suadis to foot U.S. bill

(Continued from page 1)

sanctions) will have any result," Yehia Fahd Al Simit told reporters.

Simit, minister of state for housing in the ousted cabinet, said efforts at a diplomatic solution should be allowed only a short time to work.

Referring to suggestions that elections should be held, he said Kuwaitis chose Al Sabah family as their rulers in 1756 "and no one in Kuwait will want any other leadership."

In Abu Dhabi, capital of the UAE, Baker met Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, ruler of Abu Dhabi and president of the seven-state grouping.

He is due to meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo Saturday before flying to Helsinki for Sunday's summit between George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Baker was met at the airport by Deputy Premier and Minister of Planning Kamal Ganzouri.

Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Maguid could not be at hand because of a minor car accident. A tyre of his car exploded while enroute to Cairo from summer resort of Alexandria where President Mubarak and other government officials are staying.

Baker is scheduled to meet Mubarak in Alexandria Saturday morning.

Reporters and photographers were barred from approaching Baker's plane.

In the past, however, the United States and Britain have said they would not place their troops under U.N. command.

In Tokyo, Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union is conducting secret talks with the Iraqi government to free Westerners.

"We are making various efforts to resolve this issue, including formal statements and secret contacts and talks," Shevardnadze told a news conference at the end of his four-day stay in Tokyo.

Europarlamentarians

(Continued from page 1)

accept its responsibilities. We are in favour of international economic aid being given to the area, in particular to Egypt, Syria, Turkey and Jordan.

Crompton dismissed charges that Jordan may be breaking the embargo by allowing Iraqi oil tankers to enter Jordan by saying that the oil represented "a repayment of war debts which Jordan needs to keep its economy alive."

The delegation said the decision to allow for the entry of medicines and foodstuffs into Iraq was up to the United Nations, but "the situation for the moment is that neither foodstuffs nor medicines are excluded," Formigoni said.

Crompton lashed out at those who could in favour of a food and medicines embargo by saying, "I don't think that the U.N. will see it as its role to actually starve people in Iraq and to deprive them of basic essentials, that surely is not why the U.N. was created."

Moorhouse, who heads the European parliament's committee on external (economic) relations and serves as rapporteur of the 1991 budget committee, said that the European Common Market had already given the equivalent of \$28 million in emergency aid to Jordan in view of the evacuee crisis.

The evacuee situation, Moorhouse said, "is terrible... a coordinator is needed."

Moorhouse said that he feared "things may get out of hand if there is another influx of people," across the border. Crompton, in apparent disapproval of the lack of quicker measures by some Western European countries, said: "I know that Europe is full of transport planes. I cannot understand why as much air transport as is required has not been made available. I think it

should be made available.

The Palestinian question, Formigoni said, was of "particular concern" to the European Parliament. "We are concerned about the reestablishment of the rights of the Palestinian people and with a solution to the serious war situation in the Lebanon," he said.

Formigoni said, in addressing the present Gulf crisis and the issues which emerged from it, the parliament has realised that it cannot "accept that in a part of the world which produces a commodity as essential to the modern world as is oil there should still be countries that suffer from underdevelopment and there should be a situation in which people are unable to live in dignity."

He said that an Arab-European dialogue as a forum for addressing problems in the area "has so far not been pursued in the positive way in which it could be pursued. We are now concerned to draw evil from good and to draw that idea into practice."

Before leaving for Tunis, Crompton in a very concerned tone told reporters that "we are all guilty of using the Middle East for our political aims from the time the Ottoman empire ended."

The delegation met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, leaders of the toppled Kuwaiti government and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad before coming to Jordan. The delegation was briefed here on Jordan's position by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan as well as members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament.

The delegation will meet in Tunis with President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

EC to give \$2 billion

(Continued from page 1)

separate country, even though it is an ally."

He said that the \$2 billion which the EC will grant Turkey, Jordan and Egypt through 1991 "relieves the United States of an effort in this area."

There have been increasing demands in the U.S. Congress for America's allies to share the cost of deploying the thousands of U.S. troops in the Gulf.

Jordan, Turkey and Egypt are particularly hard hit by the United Nations embargo against Iraq. The EC Executive Commission has estimated their losses in revenues through 1991 at roughly \$9 billion.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said the 12 EC nations agreed to provide the three countries with \$2 billion in balance-of-payment relief. He said the EC wants rich Gulf states — notably Saudi Arabia, which he said stands to gain \$30 billion over the next year in higher oil prices — to pay at least two-thirds of the \$9-billion tab.

Of the EC funds for Turkey, Egypt and Jordan, he said, "the political signal is very clear. With this aid we assume that these countries will strictly honor the embargo" against Iraq.

Other officials said this linkage applied in particular to Jordan, which has officially endorsed the U.N. embargo but has been accused of letting goods reach Iraq across its territory. EC officials say that the embargo jeopardises 30 per cent of Jordan's annual gross national product. The comparable figures for Egypt and Turkey are 16 and 4 per cent respectively, they said.

The EC economic affairs and finance ministers, who meet here separately this weekend, will see if the EC aid can be financed through the community's budget.

De Michelis said the EC nations agreed to study tightening the economic embargo against Iraq by extending it to commercial air traffic. Such a measure would have to come from the U.N. Security Council.

Thatcher gets support

(Continued from page 1)

destroyer and two frigates to the area. A second destroyer and three minesweepers are also on their way. Officials said any further commitment would almost certainly be ground troops.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Britain's military commitment was costing £1 million (\$1.9 million) a day. He added that so far it had cost a total of £75 million (\$142 million).

Hurd, who returned from a six-state tour of the Gulf Wednesday, said Iraq's eventual withdrawal was not in question.

The international community could not allow Iraq "go smiling home out of Kuwait with two islands and an oil field in (its) pockets," he said.

Referring to U.N.-imposed sanctions against Baghdad, Hurd said the oil exports which brought Iraq foreign currency had virtually stopped.

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Becker, Agassi reach U.S. Open semifinals

NEW YORK (R) — Second-seeded Boris Becker sputtered a bit at first but fourth-seeded Andre Agassi roared past his opponent Thursday to advance to the semifinals at the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament.

Agassi, without his beard for the first time in the tournament, continued to display his powerful baselining game by hammering unseeded Soviet Andrei Cherkasov 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 for his third straight set victory.

"There was not a lot of things that I could have done better today," said the flamboyantly dressed American after reaching the semifinals at Flushing Meadows for the third consecutive year.

Becker lost the first set and had some early trouble in the second and fourth sets, but then got on track and charged past Aaron Krickstein 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3. "When I was down a set and two-love, I said 'now I have to start to play, try to fight' and that's what I did," Becker said of his five games run put together by winning 20 of 25 points.

Becker edged Agassi in a five-set, six-hour Davis Cup thriller last year and he expects the same type of struggle Saturday. "He puts many balls back so it will be a long match, like 6-4 in the fifth set for me," said Becker. Said Agassi: "I'm out there for blood and hope to keep him out there all day long."

Saturday's other semifinal

assures at least one American to be in the final for the first time since 1985 when unseeded four-time champion John McEnroe plays 12th-seeded Pete Sampras, the quarter-final conqueror of Ivan Lendl.

Cherkasov, ranked 50th in the world, was out of his league in his first Grand Slam quarter-final. Through the first two sets he was broke six of eight times. Pounding his shots deep into the corners, Agassi kept his foe scurrying on the defensive, far behind the baseline.

"He has powerful groundstrokes. I think they are the best in the world," said a winded Cherkasov.

Agassi cracked 32 winners and never trailed in the match.

"I did dictate most of the points," said Agassi.

Becker, however, had to overcome a slow, error-filled start, similar to his early form in a five-set fourth-round win over Australian Darren Cahill.

But once Becker cut down his errors and found his groove Krickstein, a counter-punching baseliner, had no weapons to hurt the defending champion.

The ninth-seeded Krickstein, who had never taken a set from Becker in their four previous encounters including a semifinal here last year, quickly ended that streak Thursday.

The American, playing strictly from the baseline, out-steadied the three-time Wimbledon cham-

pion, who committed 14 unforced errors to Krickstein's four in the opening set.

"He was giving the every opportunity to take a big lead in the match and I didn't take advantage of it," said the often-injured 23-year-old Krickstein.

"I kinda lost rhythm and my concentration in the middle of the match. I let success slip away," he added.

Krickstein, who led the United States into the Davis Cup semifinals by winning both singles against Czechoslovakia earlier this year, threatened to send the match into a fifth set by taking a 3-0 fourth-set lead.

But as soon as Becker got the break back in the fifth game for 3-2, the outcome was never in doubt and he rolled through the last four games unchallenged.

Becker, who is still looking for his first Grand Slam title of 1990, said his fitness and his opponent's fatigue contributed to the victory.

"At the end he (Krickstein) had no energy. His legs were tired, he couldn't get down for his shots," Becker said after securing his third career U.S. Open semifinal berth.

After winning his first three matches in straight sets, Becker has been extended in the last two but said he expected to be tested at this point of a Grand Slam. "I've been playing good tennis for the last 10 days it's just that my opponents have been getting tougher."

Beckenbauer joins Marseille

PARIS (Agencies) — Franz Beckenbauer planned to leave the soccer stadium behind him after 26 glorious years and move into marketing. But he could not stay away from the game.

The former West German manager and international signed a two-year contract Thursday to be technical director of French League champions Marseille.

"After our success in Italy, nothing could have been further from my mind than being in Marseille by September," Beckenbauer who led West Germany to World Cup victory two months ago, told the French sports daily L'Equipe.

"But I've been active in the professional game for 26 years now and it's hard to leave it," he said.

"As for marketing, I'll save it for later," Beckenbauer's millionaire owner Bernard Tapie courted Beckenbauer after West Germany's World Cup success in Italy.

The 44-year-old Beckenbauer, the only man to win the World Cup as player and manager, is likely to receive a hero's welcome when he goes to the Mediterranean city Saturday to see the team in action against Paris Saint-Germain.

Marseille, European Cup semi-finalists last season, already have an array of star players.

Tapie paid \$8 million for Yugoslav World Cup midfielder dragan Stojkovic in the close season after last year's \$7-million transfer of England's Chris Waddle.

Beckenbauer said negotiations with 1994 World Cup hosts the United States, who have expressed an interest in hiring the West German as coach, would be put on ice until at least 1992.

Tapie declined to give details of Beckenbauer's salary. He said Beckenbauer's vast tactical knowledge of soccer could eliminate many of the errors that into the French game.

"I don't know if Marseille will in the European Cup but I'll have done everything reasonably possible to do so," he added.

"The group at Marseille seems perfect. It is one of the best teams in Europe," Beckenbauer said on French television. "It has one of the most enthusiastic publics and it will be a challenge for me."

Beckenbauer, who coached the 1990 West German team and captained the 1974 team world champions, will occupy the post for two years, according to Tapie. The present coach of Marseille, Gerard Gili, will remain as trainer.

Beckenbauer made no comments about reports he may work with the American soccer team after 1992 to prepare for the 1994 World Cup finals, being held in the United States. The American team has an automatic berth in the finals.

Marseille has been the French champion for the past two years and it contributes a number of players to the French team. Beckenbauer said he sees no trouble with the present coach of the French squad, Michel Platini.

Senna leads 1st Italian GP qualifying session

MONZA, Italy (AP) — Brazilian Ayrton Senna, in a McLaren-Honda, set the fastest time and a lap record in Friday's first qualifying session for the Italian Formula One Grand Prix, making a strong bid for his 49th pole position.

Senna, the leader of the 1990 World Championship standings, turned the 5.8-kilometre Monza circuit in one minute, 22.972 seconds, at an average speed of 251.651 kph (156.369 mph).

The previous lap record, in 1:23.46 minutes, had been set by another Brazilian, Nelson Piquet, in 1987. Piquet at the time drove a turbocharged Williams-Honda car.

Britain's Nigel Mansell, in a Ferrari, was second fastest in 1:23.141 minutes, drawing warm applause from the supporters of the Italian team.

Senna's teammate Gerhard Berger outpaced defending world champion Alain Prost for the third position in qualifying.

The Austrian was timed in 1:23.239 minutes. Prost, who drove a Ferrari, had 1:23.497.

Prost trails Senna by 13 points — 50 to 63 — in the championship standings after 11 events of the 16-round championship and must finish high in Sunday's race to keep alive his hopes to retain the world drivers' title.

Belgian Thierry Boutsen, in a Williams-Renault, came fifth, in 1:24.042, while rising French star Jean Alesi drove a Tyrrell-Ford to sixth place in 1:24.159.

The final qualifying session, deciding the pole position for the Italian Grand Prix, is scheduled for Saturday.

Napoli begins Italian League title defence

MILAN (AP) — Argentine forward Diego Maradona, seeking to silence hostile crowds with his on-field magic, leads defending champion Napoli against a powerful north Italian "coalition" in opening league play Sunday.

Maradona, who enraged Italian fans during the World Cup, looked impressive in pre-championship matches and is expected to be instrumental once again in Napoli's effort to win its third Italian League title in five years.

Maradona will be backed by newly hired Italian striker Andrea Silenzi and by the Brazilian duo of Antonio Careca and Alemão in Sunday's difficult away match against Lecce.

Lecce, which fields newly hired Brazilian midfielder Mazinho and Argentine veteran striker Pedro Pablo Pasculli, scored four goals against Cagliari in a Cup of Italy match last Wednesday night.

A.C. Milan, Juventus of Turin and Internazionale of Milan, rated as Napoli's toughest rivals, also take on fiery opponents in the opening round of the nine-month, 18-team competition.

Milan, which will miss disqualified Dutch midfielder Frank Rijkaard, plays at home against Genoa, which strengthened its team by signing Czechoslovak striker Tomas Skuhravy.

Juventus tests its offensive strength — and possibly its defensive weakness — in an away match against Parma, a major league newcomer.

Juventus, which has signed Roberto Baggio, Thomas Haessler and Julier Cesar in one of the most expensive transfer campaigns in Italy's soccer history, suffered a 5-1 rout by Napoli in a pre-championship match last week.

Parma, which has signed a foreign goalie — Brazilian Claudio Taffarel — will rely on Swedish forward Tomas Brodin for its scoring punch.

Lothar Matthaeus, who helped lead West Germany to the World

Cup title, is sidelined with a pulled muscle and will miss Inter's opener against Cagliari, another newcomer.

It will be up to two other world champions, Jurgen Klinsmann and Andreas Brehme, to give Inter's the winning goals against the Sardinian team, which fields the Uruguayan trio of Enzo Francescoli, Jose Herrera and Daniel Fonseca.

Roma, whose quality of play has been boosted by the arrival of Brazilian midfielder Aldair, faces Fiorentina in one of the most interesting duels of Sunday's round.

The new tactics developed by Roma's new coach Ottavio Bianchi may give West German veteran striker Rudy Voeller better scoring opportunities.

Torino and Lazio, considered possible surprise teams, clash in Turin.

Rafael Martin Vasquez, the former star of Real Madrid who has been Torino's most expensive transfer, will duel with Lazio's newly striker, Karlheinz Riedle of West Germany, who will be supported by Uruguayan Ruben Sosa.

Sampdoria of Genoa, missing its injured striker Gianluca Vialli and other key players, may face unexpected problems in the home match against Cesena while Bologna, powered by Hungarian virtuoso Lajos Detari, is a clear favorite against Pisa.

The Italian major league kicks off Sunday with a top priority — stopping violence and falling attendance.

Several clubs have been investing heavily this year to strengthen their lineups and their chances of winning the league title.

But the crowds turning out during the nine-month-long season have been declining steadily since 1985 as a result of violence and massive television coverage of league and European Cup matches.

Manchester Olympic bid faces image problem

MANCHESTER, England (R) — If Manchester's dream comes true, a wasteland next to a canal and a sewage works will be transformed into a dazzling Olympic stadium.

The English city is one of six seeking to host the 1996 centenary Olympic Games, with the winner to be named by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Tokyo on Sept. 18.

Manchester is not considered to be a favorite.

Surveying the proposed site, with a congested motorway bridge straddling the Manchester Ship Canal in the distance, it is clear that the industrial city has an image problem.

The city is making a "green field" bid with the Olympic village and stadium to be built as soon as it gets the go-ahead.

"Manchester itself is not a particularly romantic world city," said Bob Scott, city theatre impresario and the ebullient chairman of the Manchester Bid Committee, in an interview.

I think its virtues are quite complicated and we hope they are the sort that show up the more you think about it."

Imagination not image is what matters, he says — the sort of thinking that built a 56-kilometre ship canal and turned the inland city into the third biggest port in Britain last century.

Athens is the front-runner for the games, as Scott readily admits, but the Manchester campaigners have black-booked one of their city's main hotels for 1996 just in case.

"I have always said that Manchester's fate depends on Athens. If Athens gets its act together they will get the games but if Athens for some reason falters then I think Manchester is an extremely interesting candidate," he said.

Smokestacks, pollution and nginess are the image many Britons have of a city that was once called the "workshop of the world" but there is also some of the finest scenery in England close to hand — a fact the lavish bid profligate emphasises.

The Olympic Games would be staged at 24 venues, including Manchester, across north-west England and north Wales.

The archery would be held at a privately-owned estate in rural Cheshire, the yachting off the Welsh coast at Pwllheli and the canoeing on the scenic River Dee near Chester.

The Old Trafford cricket ground will be used for baseball while soccer will involve the mighty Liverpool and Manchester's city and United team's grounds.

Other facilities are yet to be built — the site earmarked for the 80,000-seat Olympic stadium is partly-owned by the canal company and planning permission has still to be settled.

The sewage works would make way for the media centre.

A new terminal is under way at the airport, the world's 15th largest, and a sign outside reads: "The Olympic Terminal."

"The strength of not having good facilities is that you have to build them. It also means the IOC will have purpose-built new facilities," said Scott.

"When Seoul was given the 1988 games they had virtually no facilities on the ground at all and they had never run a world championship in any sport except taekwondo," he said.

Manchester has the largest university campus in Western Europe for accommodation and, with 15 million people living within an hour of the city, high attendances are likely to be guaranteed.

The bid, underwritten by the city's left-wing Labour council, has been funded entirely by private enterprise and has cost £3 million (\$5.7 million).

Manchester Town Hall boasts illuminated Olympic rings while flags flutter outside and at the main railway station.

"One of the interesting things about Manchester is that there is no "stop the Olympics" campaign," said Scott, referring specifically to the absence of any environmental protests.

A casual poll in a city pub found much enthusiasm, although some locals doubted the bid's chances of success.

Mystery virus could sideline Leeds

LONDON (R) — Leeds United, riding high back in the first division, could see their progress temporarily checked by a mystery virus that has hit over 30 staff and players.

The northern English club, newly-promoted and lying second after three matches, set off Friday on an away tie at Luton town with three first-squad players already affected.

A club official said manager Howard Wilkinson might ask to have the match postponed if other players developed the virus, which causes diarrhoea and sickness.

"It could well be that the manager will have to look at the situation in the morning," Administration Manager Alan Roberts told Reuters. "Its one of those situations that could change in 24 hours."

When the virus began among apprentice players early this week, the club thought it was food poisoning. But doctors diagnosed a virus — and warned that it could spread.

"We've been told by the experts the fact no-one's gone down with it in the last 12 hours doesn't mean a thing," Roberts said.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your best aspect today for getting at the truth of any condition that is of importance to you is in the P.M. and you would be wise not to take chances in the morning and to keep promises made.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Communicate with others those pleasant times you would like to have with them while later listen to follow suggestions given you by a bigwig.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A part job or some other repairs now could greatly increase the value of your property after which you can meet persons with advanced course of action for you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have considerable charm today and would be wise to early use it to get rid of an untoward situation, then get into paying bill, making collections etc.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You would be wise to impress the one you love most with your true devotion, then you can get out to make an agreement with an outside person.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Several friends are ready and willing to give you support to gain an anticipated desire after which tackle whatever project problem awaits your attention.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) The world is your oyster in the morning to go after what you want there and later you can do something special to dispel anxiety of disturbed pal.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Look for some fascinating interest that brings you pleasure as the means to express yourself in the future, later, do nothing at home to upset family member.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 22) Whatever your recreations have been costing you, now is the time to settle up for them money-wise; later be careful not to offend in any comments.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 to December 22) Be more aware of the advice given you by a companion who really cares for you; at night look for some surprise condition of a money nature.

CAPRICORN: (December 23 to January 20) Being a little less withdrawn and more open with a business person gains you advance you desire; later do nothing to upset a personal pal.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Use the early part of the day to contact playmates for some mutual entertainment, then later don't be influenced by your attachments odd mood.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well how you can arrange family and home condition so other family members and you can have more comfort; then avoid a depressing person.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

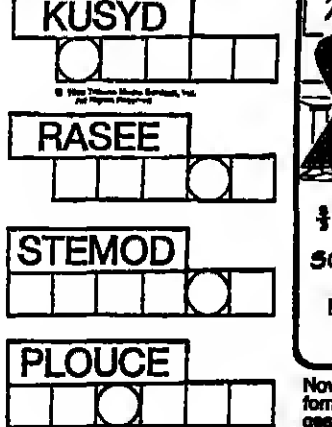


"Fixing the flooded cellar will cost \$500. But if we call it Sea World we can charge \$10 a head!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



SOMETHING ADDED TO WATER TO FRIGHTEN LITTLE CHILDREN.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: FOLIO TRACT PASTRY LIQUID

Answer: Where her meteorologist boyfriend had his head most of the time—IN THE CLOUDS

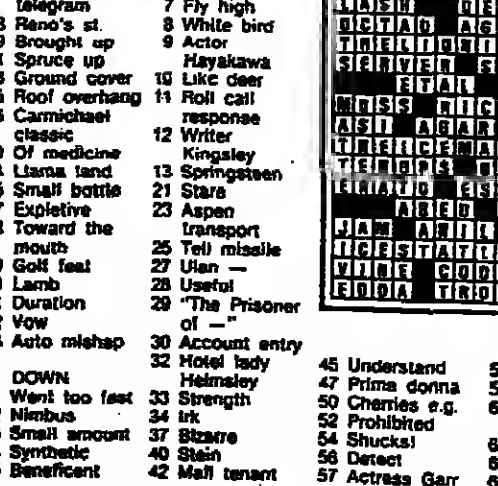
THE Daily Crossword

by I. Miller



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—At South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ J10652 Q85 72 ♠ A83

Partner opens the bidding with a diamond bid of two hearts. What do you respond?

Q.2—At South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ A29 AQ7 9872 ♠ AQ7

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.3—At South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ A106763 85 ♠ AKJ8 ♠ Void

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.4—At South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ A106763 85 ♠ AKJ8 ♠ Void

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ AKQ1085 ♠ Q93 ♠ AQ8 ♠ Void

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one diamond. What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ AKQ1085 ♠ Q93 ♠ AQ8 ♠ Void

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North

1 ♠ Db1 Pass 2 ♠

Pass ? What do you bid now?

Hun Sen leaves for Jakarta

Moscow ready to meet Sihanouk

TOKYO (R) — The Soviet Union is ready to talk with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a leading opponent of the Soviet-backed government in Cambodia, on ways to end that nation's long civil war, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Friday.

He told a Tokyo news conference there had been sweeping changes in the U.S. position on Cambodia, with Washington now ready to make contact with Phnom Penh.

"I wish to say that the Soviet Union would be prepared to contact and have a dialogue with Prince Sihanouk," he said, referring to the exiled guerrilla leader as the "leader of the Cambodian people and Cambodia."

Sihanouk is titular head of a three-party coalition that has been fighting a guerrilla war

against the administration installed by Moscow's close ally Vietnam in 1979.

The United States announced in July it was prepared to open a dialogue with Hanoi. It was a major policy shift — Washington has enforced a strict trade boycott on Vietnam since the country was unified under Communist rule in 1975.

Shevardnadze said he had proposed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in July that he would meet Sihanouk if the United States would meet with Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen.

A spokesman for Sihanouk's faction welcomed Shevardnadze's decision, saying it corresponded with a decision by the United States Thursday to open a dialogue with the Phnom Penh government if the Jakarta talks went

ahead.

"I think it is automatically confirmed by the United States decision to talk to Phnom Penh," said Ek Sereyvat. "It is a good move."

"The Soviet Union has in the past few months shown a very good stand on ending the conflict," Ek said.

Hun Sen said Friday as he left his capital for Jakarta that he might not join peace talks being held there among the four Cambodian factions.

"Although I am going to Jakarta, I decided not to attend the meeting as long as Sihanouk still boycotts this forum," he told the local press at the airport, the official SPK news agency reported. Its report was monitored in Bangkok.

"I will be in Jakarta as coach,

team captain and player, the 38-year-old prime minister said. "I have to wait and see whether my counterpart, Prince Sihanouk, takes part in the competition or not."

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, titular head of a three-faction guerrilla coalition that has been trying to overthrow the Phnom Penh government for 11 years, changed his mind about not going to Jakarta, but still says he will not participate directly in the talks.

Diplomats here who watch the Cambodian situation said Sihanouk might be refusing to take part in the talks because he did not want to be called out over a June 5 agreement he reached, and later repudiated, after direct negotiations with Hun Sen in Tokyo.

Mohawk militants reject army offer

MONTREAL (AP) — A band of militant Mohawks surrounded by the Canadian army reportedly rejected an offer to be taken into military custody to end a lingering standoff.

About 400 soldiers surround some 20 Warriors and 30 Mohawk women and children on a small piece of land bordered by a highway and a lake 30

kilometres west of Montreal.

Mohawks at the Kahnawake Reservation near the town of Oka began the standoff in a dispute over land rights, but the issues have grown to include demands for autonomy.

The last holdouts say they won't lay down their arms unless the Quebec provincial police are barred from taking control once

the crisis comes to an end. Native says they fear reprisals from the police for the death of one of their officers in a raid on Mohawk barricades earlier this summer.

A statement issued Thursday by Gen. John de Chastelain, chief of the defence staff of the Canadian forces, appeared to address the Indians' concerns about the local police.

Ontario elects 1st socialist government

TORONTO (R) — Voters in Ontario, Canada's richest and most populous province, have elected a socialist government for the first time, giving the New Democratic Party an overwhelming majority.

Early returns showed the party elected or with a clear lead in 74 of the 130 seats in the provincial assembly.

Outgoing Premier David Peterson lost his own seat and his Liberal Party, which held 93 seats in the outgoing assembly, was elected or leading in only 37 seats.

Peterson called the election only three years after taking power and with two years of his mandate left to run.

Political analysts said the Liberals had aimed to renew their hold on power ahead of an expected recession in the province and before a prominent Liberal fund-raiser goes on trial accused of diverting charitable funds to politics.

In a moderate turnout, slightly up on the last election in 1987, voters clearly showed their displeasure with the early election.

The New Democrats, led by 43-year-old Bob Rae, won some 40 per cent of the vote compared with 26 per cent in the last election. They will form the first socialist government in the province, long a stronghold of the rightist Conservative Party, now reduced to a rump and likely to win only 21 seats in the new assembly.

In the last few days of the campaign Peterson switched his campaign from one of quiet self-congratulation to feverish attacks on the socialists as opinion polls showed them gaining support.

At one point he went so far as to suggest children would go hungry in the province, Canada's industrial heartland, if the New Democrats were elected.

The new government has promised to impose a minimum tax on all companies, ease the tax burden on the poor and tighten rent controls. It has also pledged to ignore the provisions of the newly-introduced Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, but has not spelled out what that would mean in practical terms.

Gambia urges food aid for starving Monrovia

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — Gambian President Sir Dawda Jawara has urged West African states and the international community to send food to civil war-torn Liberia, where reports say children have begun to starve.

Jawara heads the group of five West African nations that has sent 3,000 troops to Liberia in an effort to end the eight-month tribal war that has killed at least 5,000 people.

The Ghanaian commander of the force, Lt. Gen. Arnold Quainoo, met Jawara this week to press for emergency food aid. Quainoo's troops have been mobbed by Liberians searching for food.

The Liberian capital has been cut off for more than two months and this week the capital's last stocks of rice were exhausted.

Most of the fighting stopped with the arrival of the West African force, but the city's airport remains closed and only a few small fishing boats have dared to venture into the port.

Jawara made his appeal for aid after meeting with Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings, Ghana, Gambia, Nigeria, Guinea and Sierra Leone have contributed troops to the force created by the Economic Community of West African States.

Jawara met earlier this week with Burkina Faso leader, Capt. Blaise Compaore, who has criticised deployment of the force and

S. African violence claims 5 more lives

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Five people have died in Soweto township, three of them at a police station where they had fled for safety after being assaulted, taking the day's death toll from black-on-black violence to 15.

Soweto police liaison officer Captain Ngobeni said one victim died in an apparently random attack, shot by occupants of a minibus cruising through the township's Naledi area.

Three of the dead were assaulted in their homes or in the streets, apparently by the same gang, and died at the Jabulani police station where they had fled for safety with several other people, he said.

The fifth victim was a man set on fire near a workers' hostel in the Merafika district of the huge township outside Johannesburg.

Earlier, two black gunmen walked up to a crowd of blacks at a central Johannesburg Railway Station and shot five of them dead at point-blank range.

"The shooting was point-blank and was for no rhyme or reason. They just walked right up to the people. We don't know what the motive was," police Colonel Frans Malherbe told Reuters.

The gunmen escaped in the confusion. Cartridges littered the station floor and blood was spattered over the walls. Bodies lay sprawled where they fell as police with dogs combed the area for clues.

President F. W. de Klerk said earlier the violence sweeping Johannesburg's black townships would delay talks with the African National Congress (ANC) on ending apartheid and enfranchising the voteless black majority.

"It will retard negotiations. It is a stumbling block, if there is going to be fighting," he said.

East German lawmakers demand more control of secret police files

EAST BERLIN (AP) — Lawmakers have attacked a treaty laying the foundation for German unity because it fails to give East Germans control of the secret files of the former Communist regime.

The treaty that reconciles many of the differences between the two German states came up for a first reading in parliament.

Several lawmakers were irate over the vagueness of the provision dealing with the files kept by the former secret police.

Several activists who helped lead the revolution that toppled the Communists have been occupying the former state police headquarters where the files are kept.

They began a sit-down protest Tuesday and are demanding that East Germans have access to the files.

Even Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere said the provision in the treaty, which he personally approved, should be modified to deal more specifically with the fate of the files.

Later, his top unity negotiator, Guenter Krause, said on West German radio that East Germans should be allowed to know what is in their files.

The files are an emotional issue in a nation that was largely kept in check by the smothering and frequently sinister activities of the giant secret police network.

The activists and many lawmakers are demanding that East Germans have the right to read the files that were kept on them. Records were kept on an estimated 6 million Germans.

The treaty between the German states says the files will temporarily remain on East German land but will be administered by a West German official until a united German parliament, to be elected on Dec. 2, makes a final decision on their future.

However, activists and many lawmakers said the agreement was tantamount to giving the files to West Germany because the united parliament will be dominated by lawmakers from the larger country.

N. Korean visit to Seoul ends with presents and future hopes

PANMUNJOM, Korea (R) — North and South Koreans parted at the border Friday with laughter and promises to meet again soon after talks they called a first step in warming 45 years of frozen relations.

"What we had before was contact. What we have now is dialogue. This is an important beginning," said a senior South Korean official who asked not to be identified.

Northern Prime Minister Yon Hyong-Muk and his 89-member entourage crossed the heavily fortified border at 11:35 a.m. (0235 GMT), four days after beginning the highest level inter-Korean meeting since the peninsula was split in 1945.

North and South officials and journalists clasped hands in emotional farewell embraces, some fighting back tears as the North-ers returned to their country.

"See you in Pyongyang, right?" a senior North official was heard telling an adviser to South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo while shaking hands. The two prime ministers are due to meet in the Northern capital Oct. 16-19.

"North-South high-level talks this time could serve as a big foundation for future dialogue even though there were no achievements to speak of," Yon said during a 15-minute exchange between delegates over tea and fruit.

"We have become friendly with each other and we now understand each other's positions," Yon said.

Yon and six principal delegates held two formal sessions with South Korean Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon and an equal number of southern delegates.

Yon also met President Roh, the first time a South Korean head of state has met a Northern official. Both Koreas remain technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended in a truce and neither recognises the other.

Roh told Yon the most important thing in inter-Korean relations was still the arrangement of a meeting with North Korean President Kim Il-Sung.

The two Koreas have never been able to agree even on the correct approach to resolving their problems.

But the prime ministers agreed to begin talks on lesser issues — United Nations membership and reunion of some of the 10 million Korean family members separated since the war.

Seoul officials said both sides agreed to discuss economic cooperation and increased cross-border travel and commerce when they meet in Pyongyang.

"If they're meeting on this level that means the North Koreans have accepted that there really is a South Korea and that you can talk to the South Korean people," said a member of the neutral nations supervisory commission which monitors the armistice that ended the war.

"I agree with people who say this is not like Eastern Europe," he said.

"But on the other hand, the North Koreans don't have support from the Soviet Union and they're short of so many things... news about South Korea's wealth will spread."

Three vans which preceded the northern delegation to the border unloaded shopping bags emblazoned with the name of Seoul's most expensive department store.

Sri Lankan army fights pitched battle to rout rebels in north

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Government troops and Tamil rebels fought a pitched battle in the northeast as the army tried to expand its control after breaking the rebel siege of a strategic garrison, military officials said Friday.

They said 17 Tamil Tiger guerrillas and eight soldiers were killed in Thursday's fighting near Chilawatte in the Mullaitivu district on the seacoast south of the Jaffna peninsula.

The Tigers' 10-week siege of the army garrison at Mullaitivu town was broken Monday, the officials reported earlier.

Mullaitivu is 95 kilometres southeast of Jaffna town, where the government's efforts to break the Tiger siege of a 17th century fort has been at a standstill for two weeks.

More than 200 policemen and soldiers have been trapped in Jaffna Fort for nearly three months, with air force helicopters managing to make occasional drops of food and blocks of ice that melt into drinking water.

The military officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Tigers continued their attacks Thursday on Jaffna Fort, killing one policeman and one

soldier.

At least 13 of the government defenders in the fort have been killed since June 11 when the Tamil rebels broke a 13-month-old ceasefire and renewed their separatist war against the Sinhalese-controlled government.

Government troops trying to reach Jaffna Fort made swift progress in the first few days of their latest offensive, which started Aug. 22. They landed on an island in the lagoon facing the fort and dislodged the Tigers from a second island along a causeway that terminates at the rear of the fort.

But since Aug. 25 they have been stuck on Mandaitivu, the second island, unable to cross the heavily mined causeway. At least one big chunk of the causeway was blasted away by the Tigers when they retreated to the mainland.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne professed Thursday to be undisturbed by the delay in what he had predicted would be a speedy government triumph. He said the army would take its time but eventually rout the Tigers and reach the fort, which is barely 1 kilometre away.

The government, meanwhile, has been claiming success in Mullaitivu, 287 kilometres northeast of Colombo, the capital.

The military officials claim the rebels lost at least 117 fighters since the Mullaitivu operation began, compared to the deaths of 18 government men.

There is no confirmation of the claims. Communications with the region have been cut, and the Tigers issue only periodic battle reports, usually from offices in Europe.

The Tamil war for a separate homeland started in 1989 when the Tigers and other militant groups embarked on a campaign of guerrilla attacks on the government and massacres of Sinhalese civilians.

At least 14,000 people have been killed since then.

The Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, have long accused the Sinhalese of discriminating against them in jobs, education and use of the Sinhala language.

The Sinhalese, who have dominated the government and military since the Indian Ocean island became independent from Britain in 1948, comprise 75 per cent of the population.

Burmese army arrests rest of opposition leaders

RANGOON — (AP) — Burma's military rulers have arrested the country's remaining opposition leaders who led a landslide victory in pro-democracy elections in last May's general elections, officials said Friday.

The deputy head of military intelligence, Col. Than Tun, told reporters that six members of the National League for Democracy (NLD), including its acting leader, Kyi Maung, were arrested Thursday night.

At the same new conference, Gen. Saw Maung, who heads the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, warned against any unrest and ordered the Buddhist clergy not to meddle in politics. Buddhist monks have been at the forefront of recent anti-government protests.

"SLORC is ruling the country according to martial law. Our duty is to maintain law and order and any attempt to disrupt these objectives will not be tolerated," he said.

Kyi Maung had led the party since Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo were put under house arrest in July 1989.

Kyi Maung and another member of the League's Central Committee, Chit Hlaing, had won parliamentary seats in the May general election. The league swept the polling but the military government has refused to hand it power.

Col. Than Tun told reporters that Kyi Maung and Chit Hlaing were detained under the official secrets act and would be sent for trial soon.

He gave no details of the alleged offenses.

The other four National League members arrested were from Mandalay, Burma's second

largest city. Ohn Kyaing, Thein Tan, Ye Myint Aung and Sein Hla Aung were also arrested Thursday for allegedly instigating unrest last Aug. 8, the anniversary of the beginning of the 1988 general strike in Burma.

Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Gareth Evans condemned the arrests.

A statement from his office in Sydney said the arrests further discredited the military government and made a mockery of the May elections.

"Since the elections, the regime has shown by its intimidatory and repressive actions that was not prepared to abide by its public undertakings to allow genuine democratic change in Myanmar (Burma)," the statement said.

The Australian government called for the immediate release of all political prisoners and for Burma to accede to the popular desire for democracy, it said.

On Aug. 8 this year, troops reportedly shot dead two Buddhist monks and two students who were demonstrating peacefully in Mandalay.

The 1988 strike became a national uprising, which the army brutally crushed in September that year and seized power.

Kyi Maung, a retired, 72-year-old army colonel, was widely regarded as a moderate who had the potential to act as a mediator between the ruling military and the more radical members of his own party.

Voters in the general election, however, made it clear they regarded Ms. Suu Kyi as the real party leader. The daughter of independence hero Aung San, Ms. Suu Kyi gained a mass following the turbulent events of 1988.

Shevardnadze visit to Japan ends with no progress on islands

TOKYO (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze ended his visit here Friday and officials from both countries noted new warmth in long-trained relations. But no progress was reported on a contentious territorial dispute.

"It was an extremely meaningful visit for both sides," Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told reporters Friday after three days of talks with Shevardnadze.

The two foreign ministers signed a series of agreements during the four-day visit. The most important was President Mikhail Gorbachev's planned trip next April, which would make him the first Soviet leader to visit Japan.

"One thing I can confidently say is that the... atmosphere has changed significantly during this visit," said Shevardnadze in a news conference before returning to Moscow Friday.

He said the two countries were ready to discuss "new principles" with Gorbachev's visit.

Nevertheless, each side indicated they remain far from resolving the sensitive territorial dispute that has harmed relations for the past 45 years.

The countries have yet to sign a peace treaty after World War II because of the dispute over a small group of islands that were

seized by the Soviets at the end of the war.

For years, Japan has insisted that the sparsely populated Karli Islands must be returned before there could be any real progress in economic or political ties.

Shevardnadze emphasised Friday that the Soviet Union wants sweeping improvement in relations with Japan.

"I think the time is ripe to take a big political step forward. It is time to discuss fundamental issues between the two countries," he said.

But Japanese officials have reiterated that the territorial issue must be settled, and said they noticed no new initiative from the Soviets.

"I could not find any practical change in the attitude of the Soviet Union on the territorial issue," Nakayama said Friday.

Still, there were signs that the once chilly relationship is thawing.

On Wednesday, the two foreign ministers released a joint statement condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and demanding an immediate withdrawal of its troops. It was the first time the two governments issued a joint statement on an international issue.

Before leaving Tokyo, Shevardnadze met with Emperor

Akihito and invited him to Moscow.

Akihito did not reply immediately, saying, "It is for the two governments to decide," according to a royal family spokesman.

Shevardnadze Friday criticised Japan's policy of denying economic aid to Moscow until disputed islands are handed back.

"It is a wrong policy to paralyse all aspects of relations just because of this (territorial dispute)," Shevardnadze told a news conference at the end of his four-day stay in Tokyo.

"Japan now understands this and this fact will aid in further improving the atmosphere in bilateral ties," he said.

"With confidence, I can say that the climate now is completely different from four years ago," when he first arrived in Tokyo as foreign minister, he said.

The Japanese government has in the past stuck to its policy of "indivisibility between economics and politics" in formulating ties with Moscow.

It has maintained that a World War II peace treaty, which Japan refuses to sign without getting back the occupied islands, must be concluded before any large-scale Japanese aid.

Nevertheless, since taking power last year, Prime Minister

Toshiki Kaifu's government has started moves to accommodate Soviet desires for closer cooperation in the field of economic management and raising productivity in Soviet plants.

But these measures have stopped short of what Moscow really wants — massive aid to streamline overall Soviet infrastructure and funds for big development projects in the Soviet Far East.

Japan's economic participation in Soviet plans would also be profitable for Japanese firms, the Soviet minister added.

On the touchy issue of the disputed islands, Shevardnadze said Moscow was ready to take "drastic action" regarding the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the four islands claimed by Japan.

He equated the problem with his country's border disputes with Sweden, Norway and China.

"Our policy is to conduct rational negotiations on these matters," he said.

COLUMN

Irish singer dominates MTV Music Video Awards

UNIVERSAL CITY, California (AP) — Irish pop singer Sinéad O'Connor dominated the seventh annual MTV Music Video Awards in a ceremony marked by censorship protests and blatant commercialism. The 23-year-old O'Connor won Video of the Year, Best Female Video and Postmodern Video for Nothing Compares 2 U, in which an unfilming camera closes in on her closely cropped head and does not let go, even when she cries.

O'Connor had created a stir last month when she threatened to walk out on an audience of 9,000 at the Garden State Arts Centre in New Jersey if the state-owned open-air amphitheatre played the national anthem before her show.

"I'd like to say I had a great respect for people of all countries, including American people," she told the sellout crowd at the Universal Amphitheatre, which gave her a standing ovation.

"My attitude over the national anthem was in order to draw attention to the censorship issue," she added. "When it's racism disguised as censorship, it's even worse." Madonna, who performed a racy version of her "Vogue" video while clad in an 18th century French costume reminiscent of Marie Antoinette, saw her video capture three statues — for David Fincher's direction, Martin Scorsese's art direction and Pascal LeBeau's cinematography. Michael Penn walked away with the New Artist Award for his densely written "No Myth" and two old groups enjoying new success also picked up awards: the B-52's for Best Group and Art Direction for their exuberant Love Shack and Aerosmith for metal-hard rock for Janie's Got a Gun.

At least 14,000 people have been killed since then.

The Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, have long accused the Sinhalese of discriminating against them in jobs, education and use of the Sinhala language.

The Sinhalese, who have dominated the government and military since the Indian Ocean island became independent from Britain in 1948, comprise 75 per cent of the population.

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Later, his top unity negotiator, Guenter Krause, said on West German radio that East Germans should be allowed to know what is in their files.

The files are an emotional issue in a nation that was largely kept in check by the smothering and frequently sinister activities of the giant secret police network.

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